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FBIS-NES-94-054 CONTENTS *21 March 1994*

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Positive Atmosphere' Reported at Tunis Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
Sources on Tunis Talks, Arab Coordination Meeting *[AL-ASWAQ 21 Mar]* 1
Israeli Officials in Paris for 'Secret' Meeting *[Jerusalem TV]* 1

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Official Views Hebron Resolution *[MENA]* 1
  League Urges Speedy Implementation *[MENA]* 2
Arab League Chief Marks Anniversary, Urges Unity *[MENA]* 2
PLO's Kamal Previews Meeting of Cordon States *[MENA]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Welcomes UN Security Council Resolution 904 3
  Immediate Implementation Urged *[MENA]* 3
  'Arafat on Need for Quick Implementation *[London MBC TV]* 3
  'Arafat Comments Further on Resolution *[Brussels LE SOIR 21 Mar]* 4
  Ghawshah: Resolution 'Political' Support *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 5
  'Abd-Rabbuh: Resolution Helps Process *[Abu Dhabi Radio]* 5
Palestinian Officials Condemn Resolution 904 5
  Resolution Termed 'Useless' *[AL-DUSTUR 20 Mar]* 5
  Chief Delegate Expresses Disappointment *[Jerusalem International]* 7
  PLO Officials in Jordan React *[PETRA-JNA]* 7
Opposition Groups React to UN Resolution 904 8
  Hamas: Resolution 'Does Not Suffice' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 8
  DFLP Criticizes Hebron Resolution *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 8
  PFLP-GC Rejects Resolution *[Al-Quds Radio]* 8
Former Hebron Mayor Comments on Resolution 904 *[Cairo International]* 9
UN Envoy Criticizes U.S. Stance on Hebron Vote *[Paris LE MONDE 20-21 Mar]* 9
U.S. Stance at UN 'Angered' Palestinians *[Sanaa VOP]* 10
Radio Says Resolution 904 'Small Step' Ahead *[Baghdad VOP]* 11

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Zeroual To Resume Talks on National Consensus *[Algiers Radio]* 12
Malek Praises Zeroual's Leadership, Criticizes Media *[Algiers TV]* 12
General Staff Denies Rumors of 'Rift' in Army *[Algiers Radio]* 12
Security Forces Reportedly Kill 40 From 10 Mar Jailbreak *[AFP]* 13

Egypt

Mubarak Discusses Domestic, International Issues *[MENA]* 13
Musa on Peace Process, Relations With Iran *[MENA]* 14
  Notes Settlements, Other Issues *[MENA]* 15

Further Reports on Clinton's Jerusalem Remarks 16
- Paper Suspects Israeli Trap *[AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I 15 Mar]* 16
- Editorial Says Remarks 'Irresponsible' *[AL-WAFD 16 Mar]* 17
- PNC's Secretary Comments *[MENA]* 17

Source on 'Contacts' With U.S. on UN Resolution *[MENA]* 17
Commentary Notes Importance of Peace Process *[Cairo Radio]* 17
Islamic Group: Attacks 'Retaliation' for Bosnia *[AL-AHALI 16 Mar]* 18
Islamic Group Claims Responsibility for Bank Blast *[London MBC TV]* 18
Officials Ban Issue of London-Based Daily *[AFP]* 19
Journalists Detained for Criticizing Government *[AFP]* 19

Libya

New Party, Movement for Change, Reform, Founded *[London AL-HAYAH 18 Mar]* 19
- Objectives Outlined *[London AL-HAYAH 18 Mar]* 19

'Informed Sources': Missing Former Official Still Alive *[London AL-WASAT 20 Mar]* 21
JANA: Clinton's Jerusalem Remarks Result of 'Pressures' *[JANA]* 21
'Vaguely Worded' Hebron Resolution Examined *[JANA]* 21
Suspects in 1993 Coup Attempt Reportedly Tortured *[VOL]* 22

Tunisia

President Stresses 'Patriotic Duty' To Vote *[Tunis TV]* 22
President Reelected With 99 Percent of Votes *[Tunis TV]* 22

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Defense Minister: Budget Delaying Missile Purchase *[KUNA]* 24
Official Denies Iraqi Offer for Prisoner Exchange *[KUNA]* 24

Saudi Arabia

Paper: Clinton Jerusalem Comment 'Insult' to Arabs *[SPA]* 24
'Source' Refutes TEHRAN TIMES on Oil Production *[SPA]* 24

Yemen

Basindawah Briefs Foreign Envoys on Crisis *[Sanaa Radio]* 25
General People's Congress Assails al-Bid Statement *[Sanaa Radio]* 25

United Arab Emirates

President on Prospects for Arab Unity, Other Issues *[London AL-HAYAH 20 Mar]* 25

IRAQ

Wrapup of Events Related to UNSC, Embargo, Sanctions 27
- 'Aziz Meets Various Envoys *[Baghdad Radio]* 27
- UNSC Activities Detailed *[Baghdad Radio]* 27
- Outcome of UNSC Sanctions Review Noted *[INA]* 28
- Arab League Envoy Comments *[MENA]* 28
- Papers Urge End To Blockade *[INA]* 29
- Commentary Notes Country's Rights *[Baghdad Radio]* 29
- 'Massive Marches' Held *[Baghdad Radio]* 30

Government Stops Fuel Supplies to Kurdistan *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 30
- Kurdish Leader Comments on Situation *[AFP]* 30

Prime Minister Reviews Ties With Turkey, Asset Recovery *[INA]* 31
Saddam Adviser on Moves To 'Affect U.S. Interests' *[AL-DUSTUR 20 Mar]* 32
Kuwaiti Paper on 'Riots' in Baghdad; New Military Corps *[AL-WATAN 13 Mar]* 32

AL-THAWRAH Notes 'Positive Change' on International Scene *[INA]* 33
Radio Says 'U.S. Decisions, Dictates' No Longer Endorsed *[Baghdad Radio]* 33
Motives of 'U.S. Embargo,' 'Hostility' Analyzed *[AL-THAWRAH 10 Mar]* 34

ISRAEL

Rabin on Peace Negotiations, Talk With 'Arafat *[Jerusalem TV]* 36
Rabin Briefs Cabinet on Plans for Talks' Resumption *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Peres: Bilateral Could Resume in Early Apr *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 36
Peres on State of Relations With Palestinians *[Jerusalem TV]* 37
Peres Sees Positive Change in U.S. Jerusalem Stance *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Government Considering Accelerating Withdrawal *[Jerusalem New Channel 2 TV]* 38
Efforts To Resume Talks With PLO Reported *[Jerusalem TV]* 39
Topics of Discussion in Tunis Detailed *[AFP]* 39
Foreign Ministry Reacts to UN Hebron Resolution *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
Mayor Disappointed by U.S. Vote on UN Resolution *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
Likud Applies for Urgent Knesset Debate *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
  Special Knesset To Meet 23 Mar *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
Settlers, Policemen Testify Before Commission *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
Kakh Leader Reportedly To Surrender *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
U.S. Jewish Lobby Accused of Manipulation *[HA'ARETZ 21 Mar]* 41

JORDAN

King Receives Call From President Clinton *[Amman TV]* 43
King, Others React to Security Council Resolution 43
  King Wants Explanation for U.S. Vote *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 43
  King Links Lack of Coordination, U.S. Vote *[Amman TV]* 43
  King on 'Mistake' To Include Jerusalem *[AFP]* 44
  House Briefed on Resolution *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 21 Mar]* 44
  House Deputies Give 'Mixed Reactions' *[Amman TV]* 45
  Council of Ministers Commends Resolution *[Amman Radio]* 46
  Information Minister Views Resolution *[JORDAN TIMES 20 Mar]* 47
  Further al-'Alani Comments on Resolution *[Cairo International]* 47
Information Minister on King's Gulf Tour, Peace *[AL-RA'Y 20 Mar]* 48
King Departs Amman for Oman, Qatar Visits *[Amman Radio]* 49
  King To Discuss Yemen With Omani Sultan *[Amman Radio]* 49
U.S. Criticized on Jerusalem Stance, Hebron Vote 49
  U.S. Efforts To 'Exclude' Jerusalem Seen *[AL-DUSTUR 19 Mar]* 49
  'Serious Change' on Jerusalem Viewed *[AL-RA'Y 19 Mar]* 50
  'Negative' U.S. Position at UN Assailed *[AL-DUSTUR 20 Mar]* 50
  U.S. Stand at UN Attacked *[AL-RA'Y 20 Mar]* 51
Paper Blames PLO for U.S. Position on Jerusalem *[AL-RA'Y 21 Mar]* 51

LEBANON

Al-Asad Briefs al-Hirawi on Clinton's Phone Call *[Beirut Radio]* 53
Al-Hirawi on Need To Implement Resolution 425 *[Beirut Radio]* 53
Army Enters Headquarters of Lebanese Forces 19 Mar *[RFL]* 53
  Army Issues Statement *[Beirut Radio]* 53
  Ja'ja' Denies Link to Church Bombing *[RFL]* 53
  Views Measures Against Lebanese Forces *[RFL]* 53
Al-Hariri Comments on Church Bombing Investigation *[RFL]* 54
Connections of Church Bombing Culprits Cited *[VOL]* 54
Council of Ministers Views Decisions on Security *[Beirut Radio]* 55
New Chairman for Shiite Council Elected *[VOM]* 55

SYRIA

UN Security Council Passes Hebron Resolution 56
  Al-Asad, Clinton Discuss Draft *[Damascus Radio]* 56
  Resolution's Impact on Peace Talks Assessed *[Damascus Radio]* 56
  Commentary Says Peace Process 'Salvaged' *[Damascus Radio]* 56
  Press Views Resolution *[Damascus Radio]* 57
  Importance of Arab Coordination Noted *[Damascus Radio]* 58
Syria, Lebanon Ease Border Activity of Citizens *[Damascus Radio]* 58

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Rabbani Delivers New Year's Address to Nation *[Kabul Radio]* 60
Government Warns Dostam Against Shelling Kabul *[Islamabad Radio]* 60
Council of Ministers Meet, Discuss Budget, Security *[Kabul Radio]* 60

India

Pakistan Reportedly To Close Consulate in Bombay *[Delhi Radio]* 61
Editorial: U.S. 'Has Tilted So Much' Toward Pakistan *[NAVBHARAT TIMES 12 Mar]* 61
Commentary on U.S. Laxness Toward Pakistan A-Bomb *[Delhi Radio]* 61
International Conference on Tibet Opens in New Delhi *[AFP]* 62

Iran

Khamene'i, President Deliver New Year Messages *[IRNA]* 62
Velayati Discusses Syrian Ties, Regional Issues *[London AL-WASAT 14-20 Mar]* 63
Commentaries on U.S. Pressure on UN Hebron Resolution 66
  English-Language Cast Comments *[Tehran International]* 66
  Arabic-Language Cast Comments *[Tehran International]* 67
  TV Report: U.S. Imposes Changes *[Tehran TV]* 67
MKO Reports 'Extensive' Antiregime Operations *[Voice of Mojahed]* 67
CIA Reportedly Funding Secular Press in Turkey *[Tehran Radio]* 69
Guardian Council Approves Budget Plan *[IRNA]* 69

Pakistan

Opposition Leader Escapes Assassination Attempt *[Islamabad TV]* 70
Islamabad: Signs of Rapprochement in Talks With U.S. *[AFP]* 71
Editorial: U.S. Pursues 'Even-Handed' Regional Policy *[THE NEWS 21 Mar]* 71
Army Contingent Returns From Somalia *[Islamabad International]* 72
Iranian Envoy To Visit Islamabad To Discuss Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* 72

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Positive Atmosphere' Reported at Tunis Talks

TA2103071394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] The Israeli delegation will meet with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis today for the second time. Our Arab affairs correspondent Arye Gus has learned that last night's meeting between the sides, which was marked by a positive atmosphere, dealt with security arrangements in the wake of the UN Security Council resolution on the Hebron massacre, as well as with the resumption of the negotiations between Israel and the PLO. The sides did not deal with the demand to remove the settlers from Hebron. It is also possible that the Israeli delegation will meet with U.S. mediator Dennis Ross in Tunis. The delegation is scheduled to return to Israel tonight.

Sources on Tunis Talks, Arab Coordination Meeting

JN2103122094 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 21 Mar 94 pp 1, 14

[Report by Nasir 'Arif]

[Text] Palestinian sources have disclosed to AL-ASWAQ that Israeli-Palestinian contacts in Tunis over the past few days focused on drafting a special agreement that will be called the Palestinian security and protection agreement. The same sources indicated that the agreement will include the following:

— Evacuating settlers from the city of Hebron.
— Concentrating all Gaza Strip settlements in one place.
— Drawing up a mechanism by which the settlers' weaponry will be restricted. The maximum limit of this mechanism would be withdrawing weapons from settlers for good while the minimum would be preventing them from carrying arms when moving around.
— Deploying UN observers in Gaza and Jericho and some other areas in the West Bank cities in implementation of Security Council Resolution No. 904.

The sources, which declined to be named, told AL-ASWAQ that the Palestinians want this agreement to be one of the annexes of the Oslo agreement. Israel, however, rejects this and is reserved on the principle of drafting a special agreement on security measures for the Palestinian people. It prefers that such measures be taken on its own initiative so that they not be depicted as Israel complying with Palestinian conditions.

The sources expected all these matters to be discussed during a meeting between Israeli chief delegate Amnon Shahaq and the Palestinian leadership in Tunis. Meetings are also expected to continue, including the U.S. mediation effort through Dennis Ross, the U.S. peace coordinator, in order to work out these security issues and reach a formula acceptable to the two sides.

In a related development, a responsible Palestinian source said the PLO will not resume official talks with the Israeli side in Washington next month as agreed by the Arab states unless Israel adopts security measures to protect the Palestinians.

Arab sources told AL-ASWAQ that differences remain over the venue of the coordination meeting of the Cordon [al-tawq] States, the parties invited to it, and the nature of the decision that will be taken continue to prevent the convocation of such a meeting. Syria wants a tripartite meeting in Damascus by delegations from Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, excluding Egypt and the PLO, because it believes the PLO departed from Arab coordination when it signed the Oslo Agreement. The Egyptian side wants a collective coordination meeting in Cairo for all states concerned in negotiations, including the PLO.

Commenting on these reports, Palestinian sources said the PLO does not care whether the coordination meeting is held in Damascus or Cairo, but believes the meeting should be consecrated to unifying Arab efforts to pressure Israel into adopting practical measures to protect the Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories. The sources added that the PLO believes the purpose of the meeting should not be coordinating stands on issues that will be negotiated with the Israeli side during the next round of talks because the PLO still has reservations on the resumption of talks before Israel starts to practically implement Security Council Resolution 904.

Israeli Officials in Paris for 'Secret' Meeting

TA2003191694 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Two senior Foreign Ministry officials left for Paris before dawn today for a secret meeting, apparently with a senior economic figure from an Arab country with which Israel does not have diplomatic relations. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik has learned that the two are 'Oded 'Eran, assistant director general in charge of economics, and Rafi Baraq, the head of the Foreign Ministry director general's bureau. They will return home in less than 24 hours. The Foreign Ministry refused to confirm or deny the report.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Official Views Hebron Resolution

NC1903160194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA)—Arab League Assistant Secretary General 'Adnan 'Imran voiced hope today that practical measures will be taken to provide protection for the occupied territories' residents, especially after the UN Security Council last night adopted a resolution condemning the 25 February al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron on the West Bank.

'Imran said he also hopes that the resolution will mark the beginning of a greater UN role in providing for the security needs of the occupied Arab territories prior to the transfer of these lands to their rightful owners.

'Imran, who was speaking on the sidelines of the opening session of the second Conference on Solidarity and Cooperation in the Mediterranean in the 1990's, remarked: We regret that a member of the Security Council abstained on a paragraph that affirms respect for the Geneva Conventions, particularly the Fourth Convention, which explicitly deals with the world community's responsibility for protecting people living under occupation from being killed, oppressed, or terrorized.

'Imran pointed out that not only are the Israeli settlers responsible for the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, but the Israeli authorities also are because of the prevailing settler mentality and the instructions given to the Israeli Army not to intervene to stop any Israeli murderer. He said the Security Council resolution on the incident should have been adopted in a more timely and urgent manner.

The Arab League assistant secretary general asserted that Jerusalem is occupied territory according to Security Council resolutions. He said this issue must be given priority in the peace negotiations.

He emphasized that Jerusalem's Arab identity is "beyond doubt" and said that all the Arab countries are committed to a full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem.

'Imran added: More important than resuming the negotiations is Israel's abandonment of its procrastination and evasiveness. The negotiations will be fruitless unless Israel foregoes its rejectionist mentality and complies with international legality.

Explaining that the peace issue is a permanent item on the Arab League's agenda, he noted that the next Arab foreign ministers conference will discuss the Middle East peace process.

League Urges Speedy Implementation

NC2003125494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1202 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA)—The Arab League General Secretariat has urged the UN Security Council to implement expeditiously its resolution on the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre.

In a statement issued today, the General Secretariat cited Security Council Resolution 904, which condemns the massacre, urges measures to guarantee the safety of Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories, calls for international or foreign presence in those areas and the confiscation of the Israeli settlers' weapons, and urges further efforts by the peace conference co-sponsors to revive the peace process.

The statement pointed out that the contents of the resolution are guidelines that must be built upon to attain a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East, particularly as its clauses are similar to some parts of the Arab League Council's resolution of 27 February on the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre.

The Arab League General Secretariat appealed to the Security Council to implement its resolution with due speed, demanding that the resolution not be subjected to Israeli procrastination and evasion designed to dilute it.

The statement noted that expeditious implementation of the resolution, being in line with existing international agreements, will protect the unarmed Palestinian people from Israeli practices.

The Secretariat reiterated its firm position on the Arabness of Jerusalem and the need to abide by UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 252, 338, 425, and 465.

Arab League Chief Marks Anniversary, Urges Unity

NC2103113994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1002 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 21 Mar (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has stated that the sudden developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict, particularly after the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, require more work than ever to achieve Arab reconciliation and unify the Arab fold to unite the Arab political will to enable the Arabs to deal with all the challenges and dangers, primarily Israel's continuing occupation of the Arab territories, including holy Jerusalem.

In a statement today marking the Arab League's 49th anniversary, which the League will celebrate tomorrow, Tuesday, 'Abd-al-Majid said the challenges require our nation to rise above its wounds and pain and restore Arab solidarity on firm foundations based on frankness and openness with the eagerness to stick to the goals and principles of the Arab League Charter.

He asked the Security Council and the two countries sponsoring the peace conference to quickly implement Security Council Resolution 904 denouncing the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. He also called for providing the necessary international protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, applying the Fourth Geneva Conventions to them, disarming the Jewish settlers, and removing the Israeli settlements, which form a new impediment to the peace talks.

He appealed to the Security Council not to use two yardsticks and to quickly implement the UN Charter's provisions so that peace, development, and fruitful cooperation in the Middle East will materialize. He reiterated the Arab identity of Jerusalem and the commitment to implement international legitimacy Resolutions 242, 252, 338, 425, and 465 on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He said last year's events have shown that seeking the arbitration of the UN and Arab League Charters is the ideal way to resolve numerous conflicts that face our Arab nation. He also stressed his confidence that the restoration of Arab solidarity and joint action forms a firm basis to enhance Arab capability to face up to the current challenges and ambitions.

'Abd-al-Majid called for unifying the will of Arabs toward enhancing and strengthening the Arab League structure by setting up an Arab court of justice as an effective tool to peacefully resolve conflicts involving Arab countries. He noted that had such a court existed before 2 August 1990, the Arab nation would have avoided the serious ramifications of the Gulf crisis the effects of which we are still suffering.

He said he hoped the Arab League Council could, at its next session on Saturday, achieve this mechanism—an Arab court of justice—so that the Arab nation might handle the dangers and challenges it is facing and that affect the structure of pan-Arab security.

The Arab League secretary general said: The anniversary of the Arab League, which was founded in 1945, the oldest regional organization set up after World War II, represents an important stage in Arab history. This requires us to consider being frank and open so that we may learn a lesson that will help us to sense the steps to take at a time when the Arab nation faces developments of a strategic nature in the international arena, primarily reorganizing economics on new bases.

PLO's Kamal Previews Meeting of Cordon States

NC1903151094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA)—Palestinian Ambassador to Egypt Sa'id Kamal has announced that the foreign ministers of the cordon states, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and the PLO, might hold a meeting on the sidelines of the Arab League session in Cairo next Saturday [26 March].

Kamal told MENA that the aim of the meeting is to coordinate positions and give the five concerned Arab parties an opportunity to consult over future actions. This will be especially useful after the issue of resuming the peace talks is settled in light of the UN Security Council resolution adopted today. The resolution condemns the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and backs the protection of Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Kamal said next Saturday's meeting will also discuss the serious negative repercussions of the massacre on the peace process and likely criminal plans that Israeli settlers might be drawing up in response to the Security Council resolution.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Welcomes UN Security Council Resolution 904

Immediate Implementation Urged

NC1903175094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1747 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] Tunis, 19 Mar (MENA)—The PLO has welcomed the UN Security Council resolution condemning the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Jerusalem [as received]. An official Palestinian source has affirmed that the Security Council resolution constitutes a basis for immediate enforcement of the measures necessary to protect the Palestinian people in the occupied territories in order to guarantee the successful resumption of peace negotiations with Israel.

Following a meeting under Yasir 'Arafat's chairmanship today, the PLO called on the international community, particularly the sponsors of the peace process, to act immediately to implement the Council resolution, because guaranteeing the safety of the Palestinian people and international protection for them is an essential necessity. The PLO underlined the need to eliminate the terrorist pockets in the settlements and to discuss the status of armed settlers.

The official source noted that the PLO welcomed the issuing of the Security Council resolution despite all the difficulties and obstacles that were raised to obstruct or avert it. The PLO also welcomed the international community's condemnation and its endorsement of specific measures to guarantee protection for the Palestinian people on their occupied territories, including the disarming of settlers and the provision of an international presence to protect the Palestinian people.

The PLO pointed out that this consensus denotes a public awareness of the ugliness of the massacre, its dimensions and causes, as well as eagerness to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian people.

The organization regretted the U.S. abstention on two paragraphs on Jerusalem and the occupied territories. It affirmed that this attitude affects the U.S. reputation, particularly since the issue is related to Jerusalem—a very vital issue at the Palestinian, Arab, Islamic, Christian, and international levels—and casts doubts on the permanence of official U.S. stands on some basic aspects in the regional conflict.

'Arafat on Need for Quick Implementation

NC1903184894 London MBC Television in Arabic 1805 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in Tunis, by MBC correspondent Nicole Tannuri, in London, on 19 March—recorded]

[Text] [Tannuri] While Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan have agreed to resume the negotiations, the PLO stand continues to be undecided. A few minutes ago, we spoke to Palestinian President 'Arafat in Tunis and asked him about his evaluation of the Security Council resolution.

['Arafat] Despite the fact that we do not have any queries regarding the clarifications given by the U.S. envoy [to the United Nations] especially with respect to the issue of Jerusalem. [incomplete sentence as heard]

[Tannuri] Mr. President, there are positive indications from the PLO regarding the resumption of talks. What, in your opinion, is the ideal scenario for returning to the negotiation table?

['Arafat] As I said now, what has been agreed on in the Security Council must be implemented very quickly. Israel must take important and basic steps regarding the settlers, especially in the Hebron area. They are the ones who claim that there are two organizations that have become virtual outlaws. These are Kakh and Kahana Hay. These two organizations have supporters among the settlers. They have time bombs in their possession. In addition, they have settlements; around five or six settlements belong to them. What will the Israeli Government's measures be regarding these settlements belonging to these two groups?

[Tannuri] The other concerned Arab countries have decided to return to negotiations. Does this raise questions once again regarding Arab coordination?

['Arafat] Yesterday, King Husayn phoned me twice, after he had telephoned my brother President Hafiz al-Asad. He told me that they had received telephone calls from U.S. President Clinton to return to the peace negotiations. We agreed to convene a meeting of the five foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine as soon as possible to coordinate stands over this matter.

'Arafat Comments Further on Resolution

BR2103130794 Brussels LE SOIR in French 21 Mar 94 p 2

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Baudouin Loos in Tunis; date not given: "On the Prospect of the Mideast Peace Process After the Adoption of the Hebron Massacre Resolution"]

[Text] [Loos] What is your view of Resolution 904 adopted last Friday [18 March] at the Security Council three weeks after the Hebron massacre?

['Arafat] There is no doubt that this resolution is very important: It reflects the international consensus on this horrible crime. At the same time it is a major step because it makes provision for international protection for our people by a "temporary international presence." In addition, the responsibility of the two sponsors of the peace process—the United States and Russia—is stipulated with regard to the implementation of the resolution. Furthermore, we intend to have discussions with the sponsors, the Europeans and others, on how to implement it on the ground. The sooner the better! Having said that, the explanations given by the United States with regard to their relative abstention from two paragraphs of the resolution on the occupied Palestinian territories and on Jerusalem have been received negatively by the Palestinians, the Arabs, the Muslims, and the Christians. Especially in view of the fact that a memorandum on policy in the Near East sent by the U.S. administration to Congress on 1 February specified, and I quote: "Israeli-occupied lands known as occupied territories: the West Bank, the Gaza strip, Golan, and...East Jerusalem." Moreover that was the practical position of all U.S. administrations.

[Loos] Will you wait for the resolution to be implemented on the ground before returning to the negotiating table with the Israelis?

['Arafat] I have not ended the negotiations with them. I had a very important telephone conversation with Prime Minister Rabin on Friday, and before that with Foreign Minister Peres. This Sunday afternoon Israeli special envoys will have discussions with us. One of the subjects will be the implementation of this resolution. I cannot yet say what specific problems we will encounter.

[Loos] What do you expect on the highly sensitive questions of the settlers in downtown Hebron?

['Arafat] There are 43 families and 160 students. They can be moved.

[Loos] Do you think that that is included in the resolution?

['Arafat] It is mentioned when the resolution calls for "the occupying power to continue to adopt and implement measures, including the confiscation of arms, to prevent illegal acts of violence by Israeli settlers."

[Loos] The removal of the settlers is not specifically mentioned...

['Arafat] Even Rabin has said that installing those settlers in Hebron was "a stupid plan" and he was opposed to it when he was prime minister in the seventies. Nine ministers in his cabinet support their removal. Where to? They can be installed in Qiryat Arba', the colony situated just outside Hebron. We must prevent an explosion.

[Loos] What do you expect from the Europeans in the short term?

['Arafat] I am in constant contact with them at several levels, even in the context of the implementation of the resolution which has all the more support from them because three of the text's authors are European—Spain, France, and Britain.

[Loos] Do they think that the international presence should be an armed presence?

['Arafat] The form of the international presence still has to be negotiated with the Israelis and the two sponsors of the peace process. But we stress: Who can imagine unarmed forces sent to highly tense places being effective in protecting the Palestinian population and the holy places? We are not asking for tanks and helicopters, just for light weapons.

[Loos] Should Hebron be the main target of this force?

['Arafat] We hope so! It is these populations which have most need of security and peace. Do not forget that part of the Israeli Army was involved in the Hebron events. Some of their soldiers fired outside the mosque, according to the Israeli investigation. And, over the past 22 days, another massacre has taken place: 41 dead, 470 injured, 1,500 arrested...

[Loos] Do you still think that the Israelis will honor the 13 April deadline (stipulated in the Declaration of Principle signed in Washington) for the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho?

['Arafat] If the will is there, it is there! When they withdrew from Gaza in 1956, it took them six hours. And their own experts now assess the necessary time to be six days. Moreover, our security forces are ready to replace them. It will be a crucial test of their goodwill. When Rabin says there "are no sacrosanct dates," I must contradict: There are sacrosanct dates otherwise there is no longer a sacrosanct agreement!

[Loos] What do you say to the Palestinians who think that the main mistake was not to deal with the fate of the Jewish settlements in the Washington agreement?

['Arafat] It was not a mistake. We know that it is a very important problem. Any agreement is a compromise, but it takes goodwill on both sides. That is why we say: Let us discuss it as soon as possible, let us not necessarily wait for the start of the third year of the process started in Washington. Nobody seriously thinks that the Jewish settlers will leave the occupied territories in a week or a month. We must therefore start to discuss this question without delay.

[Loos] Do you have any indication of the Israeli intentions in this connection?

['Arafat] If they want to implement the (Washington) agreement with accuracy and honesty, they must put this question on the agenda. I cannot say any more at this stage.

[Loos] Many Palestinians thought that the agreement which you signed on 11 February in Cairo with Mr. Peres on the security issue is a complete Israeli victory to the extent that you have made all the concessions unilaterally...

['Arafat] This idea was put about after Peres, defending the agreement signed in Cairo in the Knesset, said that it represented a "great victory." I do not know what victory he was talking about. Unless he was referring to the fact that the deadlock had finally been broken in the negotiations. The victory was therefore on both sides and also on the side of peace. But, after the Hebron massacre, the whole peace process lost its credibility.

[Loos] What is your reaction when Palestinian crowds deride you?

['Arafat] That is not true. They are deriding the peace process which has not produced any practical results in seven months! And they have no confidence in the Israeli authorities' ability to implement the Washington Declaration of Principles.

Ghawshah: Resolution 'Political' Support

JN1903071294 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0615 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] In the first Palestinian reaction to UN Security Council Resolution No. 904, PLO Executive Committee member Samir Ghawshah has stated that the resolution constitutes moral and political support for the Palestinian people. Ghawshah said that the Palestinian people would like to see the practical effects of this resolution ensure the restoration of the credibility of the peace march and a return to negotiations.

'Abd-Rabbuh: Resolution Helps Process

JN1903104094 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member, has said that the PLO welcomes the UN Security Council resolution which denounced the al-Ibrahimi Mosque Massacre in Hebron and regards it a step toward helping resume the peace process.

In a statement to REUTER, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the PLO will receive an Israeli delegation within the next few days to discuss measures that will provide security for Palestinians in the occupied territory. 'Abd-Rabbuh added that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has no plans to meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Cairo tomorrow, as was reported earlier.

'Abd-Rabbuh said that what is important for Palestinians is to implement the UN Security Council resolution on the Hebron massacre and for the Israeli Government to adopt full and tangible measures in this regard. 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the U.S. coordinator, Dennis Ross, proposed such a meeting in a telephone call to 'Arafat last Thursday.

Palestinian Officials Condemn Resolution 904

Resolution Termed 'Useless'

JN2003185194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Mar 94 p 28

[Report by Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Excerpts] The United States has given us a useless condemnation, and dissociated holy Jerusalem from the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967. This is the best international reward for Israeli aggressors because the victims have accepted an international resolution that will join the archives of hundreds of similar resolutions that have been left unheeded at the world body. Consequently, this resolution reflects their own position. It is not supportive of our grievances.

After two weeks of U.S. procrastination, we have seen a "lame" UN Security Council [UNSC] resolution condemning the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. This resolution has failed to firmly handle the main causes of the massacre; namely, the continued occupation, settlement activities, and the terrorism of settlers.

This is the gist of statements made by four Palestinian officials in reaction to UNSC Resolution 904, and the shock the Clinton Administration has delivered to the Arab and Islamic nations with regard to Jerusalem.

For his part, PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab said that the resolution is not commensurate with the Hebron massacre and the ensuing massacres committed by the Israeli Army. This resolution has failed to ensure the nonrecurrence of similar massacres. It has failed to provide protection for the Palestinian people. Likewise, it has evaded any talk of settlements, and the conduct of settlers, although the settlements constitute time bombs that will jeopardize the security of the Palestinian people and the entire peace process, as well, al-Najjab argued.

Al-Najjab added that the U.S. conduct, which obstructed the passage of this resolution for three weeks and rendered its passage a difficult task, will be maintained. Consequently, it will undermine any positive aspects that could be found in this resolution. Given all this, one can say that the said resolution marks a qualitative leap in the United States' efforts to wriggle out of its commitment to the content of Resolution 242, the invitation to the Madrid conference, and even the letter of assurances delivered to the Palestinians, particularly since the United States has defied the world by refusing to acknowledge that Jerusalem is occupied territory.

Al-Najjab went on to say: The U.S. position has torpedoed the very foundations of the peace process, because it reflects full support for the Israeli position. Besides, this U.S. position will nurture Israeli intransigence and provide Israel with greater elbow room to interpret the Declaration of Principles as it wishes.

Al-Najjab believes that the resolution does not provide any justifications for the Tunis-headquartered Palestinian leadership to return to the negotiating table. Before any return to the negotiations, the Palestinian people's unanimous demands for effective international protection, evicting the settlers in Hebron, Gaza, Jericho, and other areas where there is room for friction between the Palestinians and settlers, and placing the issue of settlements at the top of the interim period talks agenda must be met, especially since these demands have enjoyed extensive support from the Arabs and the world in general.

Al-Najjab added: With regard to Jerusalem, the U.S. position toward it requires urgent consultations and moves by all Arab sides that adhere to the Arab identity of Jerusalem. The Arab sides must reply to this Israeli [as published] position, and take the necessary practical measures to safeguard the Arab identity of Jerusalem, and confront the persistent Israeli scheme to consecrate its annexation to Israel.

The PLO Executive Committee member said: This is the responsibility of all honorable people in the world. Unified positions can make the U.S. Administration reconsider its positions, which are hostile to Jerusalem, and which do not support a peace agreement grounded in the implementation of the relevant international legitimacy resolutions.

For his part, Taysir Qub'ah, deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], said: The effects of the U.S. pressures and dictates are clear, not only in the obstruction of the UNSC deliberations on the Hebron massacre, but also in the text, terms of reference, and contents of Resolution 904, not to mention the mechanism of voting on said resolution. [passage omitted] Qub'ah added: Now that the [U.S.] positions have been exposed, and given the current dangerous state of affairs, I demand the continued suspension of the negotiations. I also believe that the Palestinian leadership must not succumb to U.S. and Israeli blackmail. I strongly believe that we should no longer deem the United States an honest sponsor or broker, given U.S. practices, the last of which has been rewarding Israel for its massacre by granting it our Jerusalem, the holiest of all holy places, as well as our holy land, the land of prophets and messengers. This U.S. position is the height of bias toward Israel. It constitutes a flagrant retreat from the positions of successive U.S. Administrations since the occupation of the holy city, a violation of the letter of assurances, and a scuttling of the negotiating process, particularly since the sponsor of the peace talks has shown a blatant bias toward Israeli demands regarding Jerusalem.

Qub'ah went on to say: This U.S. position has killed the erroneous wagers some have entertained. It has also shown flagrant deception. Hence, it requires a reconsideration of the bases, terms of reference, and mechanisms of the peace process, beginning with the Madrid conference terms of reference, and ending with the Washington and Cairo agreements, which have produced unfair, unscrupulous, and inequitable agreements—the agreements signed in Oslo and Cairo.

As for Taysir Khalid, member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, he has condemned the statements made by the U.S. delegate to the United Nations, as well as her determination to deny the Palestinian people their right to sovereignty over their territory, and to deem the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip disputed territories. He also condemned the U.S. position on several paragraphs of the said resolution, particularly those regarding Jerusalem and settlements. He denounced the U.S. Administration's determination to rule out the dispatch of international troops to the occupied territories to provide the Palestinians of the occupied territories with international protection. He added that this reflects this administration's disavowal of international legitimacy and international legitimacy resolutions, including those the previous U.S. Administrations endorsed.

Khalid urged the authoritarian Tunis-headquartered Palestinian leadership to denounce this U.S. position and halt the negotiations until the U.S. Administration and the Israeli Government commit themselves to disarming settlers, dismantling settlements, ensuring true and effective international protection for the Palestinian people, and rebuilding the negotiating process on the relevant international legitimacy resolutions, including UNSC Resolutions 242 and 338, and the refugees' right to repatriation on the basis of Resolution 194, as well as the principle of trading land for peace.

Khalid went on to say: This leadership must respect the free will of the Palestinian people, who are demanding a halt to the negotiations. Or else, it must tender its resignation and call for an extraordinary PNC session to elect a new Palestinian leadership that could shoulder its responsibilities toward its people, defend their rights and interests, comply with PNC resolutions, and lead the Palestinian people's struggle to regain their national rights to repatriation, self-determination, and national independence.

Dr. Labin Qamhawi, a well-known intellectual, said that the U.S. handling of the draft resolution condemning the Zionist crime against Palestinian worshipers at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque reflects the true U.S. position, which, first and foremost, aims to boost the Israeli position. Previous developments have also shown the U.S. bias toward Israel. For the U.S. condemnation of any operation carried out by the strugglers or mujahidin against the occupation has always been prompt. [passage omitted]

Chief Delegate Expresses Disappointment

JN2003133594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Interviews with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, chief Palestinian delegate to the negotiations with Israel, and Dr. 'Aziz al-Duwayk, a former Hamas deportee, by correspondent Ahmad 'Ubaydat, place and date not given; from the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[Text] ['Urayqat] In fact, the [Security Council] resolution [on the Hebron massacre] is disappointing, particularly with regard to the U.S. abstention on Jerusalem. The United States recognized Jerusalem's status in Resolution 672 of 1991. Resolution [904] did not discuss the main issue of settlements and their gravity. Hence, this resolution is a serious step back. I believe that what is needed now is a mechanism that can be translated on the ground with regard to international protection. We are awaiting the crystallization of this issue.

['Ubaydat] But after this resolution, talks will resume between all Arab parties and Israel.

['Urayqat] Mr. Christopher actually talked about the return to negotiations by the three Arab parties; namely, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. This, regrettably of course, shows the impairment from which Arab coordination is suffering. Regarding the Palestinian track, however, the matter concerns the protection of people's lives because the peace process means preserving people's lives. I believe that without placing the issue of settlements at the top of the agenda, without providing real international protection for the Palestinian people, and without evacuating the settlements from Hebron, Gaza, and Nabulus, the negotiations will be useless, even if they are resumed, especially since Israel has not yet committed itself, even orally, to the principle of withdrawing from the territories it occupied in 1967, whether Palestinian, Syrian, Lebanese, or Jordanian territories.

['Ubaydat] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat: Will the Peres-'Arafat meeting give a glimmer of hope?

['Urayqat] I believe that what is important is not formalities, procedural matters, and the level of the meetings. What is important is the substance of the meetings. Regrettably, the Israeli Government has been taking successive formal procedures that have not yet risen to the required serious level. Thus, I do not pin much hope on this expected meeting. However, all I am saying is that the ball is now in the Israeli Government's court. This government should make a decision on evacuating the settlers from the centers of Gaza, Hebron, and Nabulus and on not objecting to real international protection for the Palestinian people.

['Ubaydat] Dr. 'Aziz al-Duwayk: Security Council Resolution 904 condemned the al-Ibrahimi Mosque's massacre in Hebron and called for international protection in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Do the Islamic circles have reservations over this resolution?

[Al-Duwayk] Yes. This resolution disappointed all political currents in the occupied territories. As a matter of fact, this resolution shows that the United Nations, led by the United States, is totally biased toward Israel. This resolution does not contain any mechanism to achieve security for the Palestinian people who were afflicted by the terrible bloody massacre. Thus, the resolution is deficient in this regard because it canceled the known fact that Jerusalem is an indivisible part of the occupied Palestinian territories.

['Ubaydat] But some circles have welcomed the deployment of Palestinian police forces in Hebron.

[Al-Duwayk] We, in fact, do not need security forces that lack the power of enforcement. The whole world is already witnessing what is taking place. The media informs the world of what happens. Thus, we do not need a new observer to tell the world about the number of victims and losses. We are in a dire need of real security and peace. In my opinion, this can only be achieved if the occupation and settlements are removed.

PLO Officials in Jordan React

JN1903193294 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1605 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Amman, 19 Mar (PETRA)—UN Security Council resolution 904 condemning the Hebron massacre passed early this morning. It has generated various reactions from political quarters and key figures in the Kingdom [of Jordan]. [passage omitted]

Salim al-Za'nun, acting speaker of the Palestine National Council, has said the UN Security Council resolution condemning the Hebron massacre is disappointing because the negative impact of U.S. pressure or the abstention from voting on Jerusalem outweighs the positive points contained in the provisions of the condemnation. This indicates a U.S. retraction in Israel's interest.

Al-Za'nun said the UN Security Council's condemnation of the Hebron massacre is just for appearance's sake. Nothing in the resolutions confirms Israel will take any steps to protect the Palestinian people from the settlers' terrorism. He added: The delay in the adoption of the resolution has cost it much of its importance.

Al-Za'nun said circumstances on the international level are not in our interest. This calls for a comprehensive Arab assessment of the peace process. He said he hopes the four Arab countries participating in the peace process resume their meetings and coordination in an accurate manner at this critical stage.

PLO Executive Committee Member Bishop Iliya Khuri said the UN Security Council resolution has dashed the hopes pinned on it. The United States blocked the resolution for three weeks. When it was issued, it did not contain anything new with respect to the demands the PLO submitted to the United States in the wake of the horrendous massacre.

On the U.S. abstention on the two paragraphs, Bishop Iliya Khuri said that by abandoning its previous stand that Jerusalem is occupied territory, the United States has failed itself before failing the Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic nations. We see it changing its stand in this era where the Arab nation continues to be fragmented despite the sincere calls his Majesty King Husayn makes to reunite this nation.

Opposition Groups React to UN Resolution 904

Hamas: Resolution 'Does Not Suffice'

TA1903122194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 mar 94

[Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has announced it rejects UN Security Council Resolution number 904 on the Hebron massacre because it does not denounce the Zionist entity. In a statement disseminated in the territories today, Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah says the UN resolution does not suffice, because it does not call for the evacuation of the settlers from Hebron and for disarming them.

DFLP Criticizes Hebron Resolution

JN1903125094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] regards the new U.S. attitude toward the UN Security Council resolution as a disturbing retreat from the stands adopted by previous U.S. Administrations. The front called Resolution No. 904 weak and colorless with no firm decisions on protecting the Palestinian people.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, rejected the resolution and considered it insufficient and incomplete. Hamas voiced its disappointment with the stands of the Arab sides, including that of the PLO.

PFLP-GC Rejects Resolution

JN1903190994 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] Commenting on Security Council Resolution 904 condemning the Hebron massacre, a Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] official spokesman stated the following:

Once again, the United States of America confirms its position that is hostile to our Palestinian people and nation through its absolute bias in favor of the Zionist entity. Security Council Resolution 904 exemplifies this U.S. tendency, established by consecutive administrations in the White House.

Following lengthy discussions and a U.S. delay, the Security Council issued a resolution carefully drafted by the United States. As a result, it lacks any real material or political value that can end the policy of murder and massacre directed by the Zionist enemy against our people. The resolution satisfies the Zionist desire to deny any of our people's rights in their land and even avoids the minimum level of previous resolutions relating to the Palestinians of the 1967 occupied territory. Resolution 904 considered that part of Palestinian territory as merely disputed territory.

The PFLP-GC spokesman adds: After three weeks of watering down, the U.S. [as heard] Security Council adopted a resolution designed to absorb the wave of anger that swept through the Arab and Muslim arenas, while at the same time practically encouraging the Zionist settlers to commit further massacres. While the resolution condemns the massacre, and urges the Zionist entity to take measures to ensure the safety of Palestinian civilians, it ignores the fact that the Zionist entity's measures and policies are the arms of the settlers and the canopy that protects their Nazism.

We in the PFLP-GC feel that the U.S. [as heard] Security Council resolution confirms the following facts:

a. The United States is only an ally of the Zionist entity and cannot in any way be a fair mediator or partner.

b. The double standards policy is now governing international resolutions in view of the U.S. hegemony over it and its various standards. While the Security Council denies our people the right to enjoy armed international protection that would guarantee their safety and security from the massacres of the occupation, we see the same council allowing itself to interfere in the affairs of an independent, sovereign state. Under the pretext of protecting the Kurds in Iraq, it sends troops for reasons that have become very well known.

c. A host of events that preceded the Madrid-Oslo-Washington course and which were part of the settlement process confirmed that the 'Arafat-Rabin agreement has encouraged the occupation soldiers and settlers to go even further in their disdain of our people and their rights.

d. Those who welcomed Security Council 904 and considered it a moral and political achievement for the

Palestinian people worked in collaboration with the Clinton administration on drafting this resolution in order to escape their crisis and circumvent the position of our masses, who believe the negotiations and their continuation represent treachery against our people and our homeland.

h. As we declare our rejection of Resolution 904, we stress that the real decision is our people's response, awareness, and rejection of all maneuvers and deceptions that aim at continuing the negotiations and entrench the occupation. This is what our people are exercising through their escalating intifadah, which has confirmed the depth of their faith in the inevitability of victory and their understanding of the conflict's nature and reality.

We pledge to continue the revolution until the liberation of land and man.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC

Former Hebron Mayor Comments on Resolution 904

NC1903090394 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with former Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah in Hebron by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz in Cairo, date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. al-Natshah, good morning and welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Natshah] Good morning, thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] How do you see the UN Security Council's resolution concerning the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre?

[Al-Natshah] I can say that the issue of protection is a just demand. We welcome the resolution. I hope that it will be implemented completely and will ensure real protection for the citizens against the settlers' attacks and the Israeli army's actions as well.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] The resolution failed to refer to the issue of Jerusalem. How do you explain this?

[Al-Natshah] We regret that the issue of Jerusalem was not included in the resolution. This, perhaps, is due to U.S. pressure. It represents a serious shift in the U.S. position. The United States has often voted in the past in favor of considering Jerusalem an integral part of the occupied territories. But it is the U.S. pressure that has now played a role in omitting the issue of Jerusalem from the resolution. All the people have voiced their indignation over this stand.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Can we expect that the UN Security Council resolution, which condemns the massacre, will pave the way for the resumption of the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks?

[Al-Natshah] I believe that this could help the PLO return to the negotiations, and I also believe that the Israeli authorities might respond to other demands. We also hope that the Israeli authorities will also respond to the resolution and to the other demands set by the PLO as a condition for returning to the negotiations.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] The Security Council has called for providing a temporary international presence to ensure protection for Palestinian citizens. What do you think of this presence?

[Al-Natshah] The word presence does not mean international forces like those that are deployed in Bosnia-Herzegovina or Somalia. It is rather the presence of unarmed UN observers to intervene in one way or another if attacks take place. This does not mean armed protection as is the case in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It is just few observers in the occupied territories who would do their best to prevent any attack on the citizens.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] The Israeli Government is currently studying the idea of assembling all the Jewish settlements in an area in the town of Hebron. Could this represent a solution to guarantee Palestinian security?

[Al-Natshah] The attempt to assemble them in Hebron is not a solution. Because the presence of settlements in the heart of Hebron has split it in half and has obstructed communications between the southern part and its western and northern parts, particularly during Fridays and Saturdays when the army bans traffic between the two parts of the town. Therefore, the best practical step in this issue is to withdraw the citizens from Hebron to another settlement as a temporary solution until a final solution is worked out, namely dismantling the settlements and withdrawing the settlers from the occupied Palestinian land.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What more do you need from the international community after the Security Council resolution, which condemned the massacre?

[Al-Natshah] We call on the international community to help place the issue of settlements at the top of the agenda of the negotiations. This is a basic demand that has also been prompted by the Hebron massacre. It is a fundamental, pressing demand and should not be delayed. Because the presence of settlements during any transitional stage would be an explosive issue that might destroy any agreement. This kind of massacre could recur in the future in other areas and could torpedo any agreement.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Thank you very much.

[Al-Natshah] You are welcome.

UN Envoy Criticizes U.S. Stance on Hebron Vote

BR2103131394 Paris LE MONDE in French 20-21 Mar 94 p 3

[Report on interview with Layla Shahid, Palestinian representative in France, by Mouna Naim; date not given: "The Palestinians Are Outraged By Washington's Behavior"]

[Text] The Palestinians are outraged. The United States literally "payed off" the UN Security Council, Layla Shahid, the Palestinian general representative in France protested. It was at Washington's wish alone that the vote on the draft resolution on the Hebron killing was delayed for three weeks, although the text had been amended and the voting procedure—paragraph by paragraph—had been drawn up several days ago, she explained to us.

And, above all, this is the first time that a U.S. Administration has ventured to exclude East Jerusalem from the perimeter of the occupied territories. The paragraph of the preamble relating to Jerusalem—on which the United States abstained—makes provision for the Council to "reaffirm its relevant resolutions which state that the fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 is applicable to the territories occupied by Israel in 1967, including Jerusalem, and Israel's responsibilities in this regard..., condemns, and so forth." The French Government even approached Washington to obtain explanations on this subject, she said. In vain.

Washington's position on the eastern part of the holy city is particularly serious because it violates the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington on 13 September by the PLO and Israel, in other words by the two sides most directly involved. Indeed, the text makes provision for the city's fate only to be discussed during the second phase of the peace negotiations and for "the two sides to agree that the agreements secured in the interim period should not undermine the result of the negotiations on permanent status or anticipate it."

Before the vote, Washington "used outright blackmail on the Palestinians: Return to the negotiating table and we will discuss the measures to be taken," Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator in the peace negotiations, said in substance to Yasir 'Arafat last week, Layla Shahid explained. The PLO is reversing the terms of the equation and refusing to be held solely responsible for the suspension of the process.

The Palestinian general representative thinks that the U.S. attitude on Jerusalem is a "negative message, an insult not only to the Palestinians but to the whole Muslim world," she said. In addition to Washington's attitude, Mrs. Shahid thinks that it is "the cowardice" of the international community which, through the Council's slowness in approving a text, is another "negative message" to the population of the occupied territories. Although Russia has the merit of "at least having tried" to show the United States that it could not lay down the law, Europe, our interlocutor deplored, is totally incapable of acting on its words at Security Council level. Before resuming negotiations, the PLO and Israel must discuss what this "international presence" stipulated by the resolution will be: "Will it be UN or multinational forces, civilian or military? From whom will they receive their mandate, how many men will they have?," Layla Shahid asks. In short, we are not out of the woods, and the situation on the ground will continue to be at the mercy of all the extremists.

U.S. Stance at UN 'Angered' Palestinians

JN1903215394 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Commentary by PLO Ambassador in Sanaa Yahya Rabah]

[Text] The U.S. conduct at the UN Security Council's debate of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and the U.S. position on the entire peace process have at once dismayed and angered the Palestinian people and many others around the world. Seen in the light of the horrific massacre, the U.S. stand raises many questions about the entire role of the United States. So much so that [word indistinct] list may be as follows: What kind of peace does the United States want? Will the United States be up to the role of a true peace sponsor? Is the United States willing to explore all the possibilities to make peace? [passage indistinct]

This is because the long, drawn-out talks convened in Washington following the Madrid conference, and then the Oslo, Granada, Paris, Davos, Cairo, and Taba talks, after the signing of the Declaration of Principles agreement on the White House lawn, have revealed [word indistinct] and real obstacles placed in the path of the peace process and the Declaration of Principles. [passage indistinct]

The U.S. argument has consistently been that the United States is loath to apply any pressure on any of the interlocutors. [passage indistinct]

As a result of this Israeli behavior and the (?emotional) support for this Israeli behavior [words indistinct] the beginning was set for 13 December, 1993 and the end for 13 April, 1994. Deadlines came and went. [passage indistinct]. The result has been that the peace initiative has lost much of its luster and the hopes pinned on it have been blighted. Also, the Declaration of Principles has lost a good deal of popular support and the hopes based on it have waned. Things now look as if we are back at square one.

The U.S. Administration has been aware of the true picture. [passage indistinct] In regards to the Hebron massacre itself and the developments leading up to and following the slaughter and the participants in it, Israel's effort at a cover-up has proved unavailing. The Israeli generals, the state inquiry commission itself, the Israeli press, and the Israeli human rights organization, have been uncovering more and more facts and details that can be proved as follows:

First, a massacre on that scale had been predicted. Israeli military and political circles had expected similar [word indistinct].

Second, with so many settlements and settlers [passage indistinct].

Third, the Israeli measures and pledges that followed the massacre [passage instinct].

Fourth, [passage indistinct] calling for placing East Jerusalem under the heading of an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories is nothing unusual; it fits in with the essence of the [word indistinct] and with the letter and spirit of the declaration of principles agreement. More importantly, it fits in with the [word indistinct] as revealed by the appalling carnage at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque.

Why then is this U.S. position, and why is this U.S. threat to use the veto prerogative?

We agree with all the parties, including the U.S. Administration, that the al-Ibrahimi Mosque bloodbath has highlighted the pressing need to pursue the peace process and the negotiations, and to secure all the elements required for bringing the peace process and negotiations to a successful conclusion. [passage indistinct].

The last interesting question is this: The United States, which has consistently argued that it does not want to pressure any of the interlocutors, is now applying maximum pressure, including a direct threat to veto a draft resolution proposed by the PLO and the Arab and Muslim groups, as well as European nations led by Russia, the cosponsor of the peace process with the United States.

We have not the least doubt that the United States is the most powerful nation on earth and that its ability to apply pressure and issue threats is limitless. However, we think the world has a need for a framework of legitimacy and neutrality and, at least, a modicum of balanced logic. But the U.S. rationale that the United States will support Israel even when it is at fault and, in the meantime, others can bang their heads against the wall [words indistinct] can implement on account of its limitless power. But it will serve no purpose.

[Words indistinct] if peace will bring dividends to all the parties, irrespective of the prevailing circumstances, all these parties must shoulder the responsibilities this sought-after peace carries.

Radio Says Resolution 904 'Small Step' Ahead

JN1903211794 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, we should not take the recently-issued UN Security Council resolution on the Hebron massacre out of its proper context, give it more importance than it deserves, interpret it beyond what it really means, and, what is more important, we should not deceive ourselves. Therefore, first and foremost, we say the resolution is only a small step in a direction that will make the UN Security Council begin to assume its humanitarian and international responsibilities in accordance with the UN charter, yardsticks, laws, and international legitimacy resolutions, and start to pass more serious, effective, clear, credible, and just resolutions in favor of the just causes of people and against injustice, crime, aggression, occupation, and the violation of the most basic human rights.

Let us hope this small step will give the peace process a push ahead on bases that will open the door to securing international protection for the Palestinian people. It is very important and necessary that negotiations continue under the canopy of a suitable atmosphere propitious for realizing the required progress and that enhances trust in the peace project and the possibility of attaining peace.

No doubt, international protection will ward off the threat of Israeli terrorism and ugly crimes and provide the Palestinian people with the opportunity to live normal daily lives so they can pursue their legitimate struggle for independence and freedom. We say there is no doubt this protection, which still needs much to become reality, is, alone, now capable of spreading the appropriate atmosphere and pushing the peace process ahead with serious steps to attain the required progress, foremost being the withdrawal of occupation forces from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area.

We wait for the UN Security Council resolution to be translated into practical steps so we can speak with real optimism. Until this happens, we reiterate that we hope this small step by the UN Security Council will lead not only to pushing the peace process ahead but to making the UN Security Council itself give up the issuance of resolutions in accordance with double standards and to stop using two different yardsticks. The just causes of people and their legitimate right to a free, dignified, and secure life are an indivisible whole. Injustice cannot be viewed as a relative matter. It is impermissible to tackle it in accordance with restrictive political yardsticks. International legitimacy should not open its eyes here and close them there.

In short, the UN Security Council is now called upon to review its repressive resolutions against Iraq and the people of Iraq, resolutions that conflict with the UN charter, laws, and its famous Universal Declaration on Human Rights. An unjust embargo is imposed on the fraternal Iraqi people. Since the beginning this embargo has had nothing to justify it on the legal, and humanitarian level. It is a very dark and ugly blot on the history of mankind's civilization that the international community should expeditiously erase. The international community must expeditiously remove many dark other blots that have brought about the endless sufferings of militant people.

Let us really hope this march begins, the march that will place international legitimacy in the prestigious position it used to enjoy so it will be possible to respect its resolutions when they are equitable.

Algeria

Zeroual To Resume Talks on National Consensus

LD1803160194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Statement issued by the office of President Lamine Zeroual on 18 March]

[Text] In his address to the nation, President Lamine Zeroual put the emphasis on dialogue and described it as the best method and way to deal with the situation and the basis for political action in the country, since this dialogue constitutes one of the main points included in the platform adopted by the national conference. In this context, as from next week the president of state will start talks with national figures, political parties and social and economic organizations. This dialogue has been defined in the various statements made by the president of state as being an honest dialogue from which no one who respects the Constitution will be excluded; and a constructive dialogue that will bring together all Algerians who are concerned about the continuity of the state and the interests of the people.

The purpose of this dialogue is to ensure Algeria's revival and to return to the rule of the people's choice in an atmosphere of clarity and continuity.

Moreover, the state is endeavoring with determination to solve the country's current problems out of its resolve to serve an effort that requires more deeds than words. Due to the speedy nature [as heard] of the security situation, the mission of the security forces, which is to ensure the safety of the citizens and their property and eradicate the terrorist violence, needs to continue relentlessly. This mission is carried out with a spirit of self-denial and sacrifice by those who are in charge of leading it and executing it on the ground.

The government is also continuously committed to tackling economic and social problems in the framework of the directives given by the president of state during the first meeting of the Council of Ministers on 27 February. It is obvious that this effort to restore our economy requires a commitment from the entire nation and its mobilization through the organizations representing it.

Thus, the national dialogue, which the president of state is intending to resume, falls within the framework of a number of integrated and well-ordered actions. This dialogue will undoubtedly provide appropriate conditions for the emergence of a national consensus that will bring together all the Algerians who love their homeland and who adhere to patriotic values, the ideals of the eternal 1 November Revolution and the principles of our Constitution. This consensus will enable Algeria to confront the various pressing challenges facing it. It will also enable it to achieve the goals of the transitional period; these goals were and will remain: Civil peace, democracy, and prosperity.

Malek Praises Zeroual's Leadership, Criticizes Media

LD1903210494 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] In a statement, Prime Minister Redha Malek said that the advent of Lamine Zeroual as the head of the state will contribute toward clarity and will reinforce the adhesion and coordination between the major state institutions. In contrast, the media and their comments are inadvertently playing the role of representative to those political circles which are incapable of providing an objective and constructive analysis.

These media commentators are under the impression that they have sensed some kind of difference in approach or even in the manner between the attitude of the head of state and the behavior of the government. The premier adds: On the contrary, I would like to stress in this respect and in a prudent manner and without ambiguity, that there is firm and complete coordination in the perception and in the work between the head of the state and myself. The continuous and determined struggle of the Algerian state against barbaric terrorism concerns all state institutions, and the same is true in respect of the political work aimed at establising a serious dialogue with all those partners who reject violence and accept the principles of national unity and the constitutional system. This political work is the concern of the head of the state and of the government.

In his statement, the head of government says: The head of state is the one who advocates the method that leads to the creation of a structured and effective economy, and to the management of Algeria's foreign financial obligations. The head of state also coordinates and leads that effort.

In conclusion, the head of government adds: Indeed, the political situation is complicated and I therefore urge the information media and those who formulate public opinion to be vigilant. We must fight the process of deception used by terrorism, in addition to other means, to kill and slaughter Algerians from all segments of society, and eradicate it.

The Algerian state remains strong, united, and determined. The protection of society and saving Algeria is a sacred patriotic duty. Matters are clear: The people's rejection and banishment of terrorism clearly stipulate the unwaivering condemnation of those who work to create confusion in order to maintain instability and mix up.

General Staff Denies Rumors of 'Rift' in Army

LD1903231994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] The General Staff of the People's National Army has issued a statement this evening on the recent reports circulated by the press regarding the existence of a rift in the positions of the People's National Army toward the current political options. Details of the statement from my colleague Nacera Bouzid:

[Bouzid] The statement by the General Staff of the People's National Army says that however legitimate the preoccupations of public opinion on this subject, such calculations are mistaken and it will once more be impossible for the People's National Army to fail again in its duty of reiterating, without ambiguity, the spirit of responsibility with which it is endowed.

The People's National Army, which is not unaware that these imaginary differences are intentionally propagated and circulated by certain sources and circles with the aim of causing harm, insists on reassuring public opinion and the vital national forces that the Army will fulfill the obligations already announced toward the institutions of the state, the Constitution, the options, and the recommendations sanctioned by the National Conference.

The Armed Forces' public role, the statement added, is to remain under the orders of the state authority, which exercises political power.

As far as speculations, which were the outcome of the political initiative [dialogue with other forces] were concerned, the People's National Army, with all its formations, cannot but reiterate its confidence in the head of state performing his sensitive task.

Concerning the criminal acts of terrorism and sabotage that the country and the population have been suffering daily, it is clear, the statement pointed out, that they are two diseases that cannot under any circumstances be accepted by the Algerian state. The People's National Army will, therefore, continue, together with all other security services, forces, and the population to fight them regardless of the price in order to restore security, stability, and tranquillity and to protect a republican, democratic, pluralist state that guarantees basic national values, as well as individual and collective rights and freedoms.

Security Forces Reportedly Kill 40 From 10 Mar Jailbreak

NC2003171494 Paris AFP in English 1703 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Algiers, March 20 (AFP)—Algerian security forces Sunday [20 March] killed 40 inmates who were among hundreds who broke out of a jail 10 days ago, officials said.

A total of 64 prisoners have been killed by security forces hunting down the prisoners who escaped from the Tazoult prison, officials said.

Egypt

Mubarak Discusses Domestic, International Issues

NC2003140094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 21 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has said that all his efforts on the Arab and international scenes aim to promote Egyptian interests. Unless the world senses that Egypt is prepared to assume a key role in the region no one will assist us. The result would be negative both in terms of the Egyptian domestic scene and the life of ordinary Egyptians. Many nations have fallen behind, retreating into backwardness and poverty that Egypt is not eager to join, he stated.

Speaking to chief editors of Egyptian newspapers during the plane trip from Harare to Cairo, Mubarak said that the daunting efforts in which he is engaged, his exchanges with various world leaders, and his bid to achieve stability in the region have demonstrated to the entire world, particularly the big powers, the vitality of Egypt's role in this part of the world. Egypt's policy during the Gulf war proved to the whole world that Egypt is a reliable force, he said.

President Mubarak said that the consultations he held with leaders of major countries and his friendship with them led these countries to adopt policies that helped Egypt in its talks with the IMF.

The world does not appreciate reclusive nations and that major powers only support those countries that have stature and influence and get involved in world events, Mubarak pointed out.

President Mubarak said that he is in constant touch with U.S. President Bill Clinton, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and Jordan's King Husayn in an effort to stimulate the peace process and resume the Arab-Israeli talks in Washington. He pointed out that even during his stay in Harare he talked on the telephone with King Husayn.

President Mubarak added that the contacts he had with President Clinton and all the other parties produced results, particularly following the UN Security Council resolution concerning the massacre in al-Ibrahimi Mosque. An Israeli delegation will meet in Tunisia with Palestinian officials to review current proposals and prepare for high-level Palestinian-Israeli talks, he remarked.

'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin are likely to meet in Cairo to sign an agreement detailing the practical measures for the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, Mubarak said. The agreement will set a timetable for the withdrawal of Israeli troops and the return of 'Arafat to Palestinian land. The president pointed out that an Israeli- Palestinian agreement was already reached before the Hebron massacre occurred.

Jerusalem's status will be determined through negotiations, Mubarak said. A statement in which U.S. President Clinton declared otherwise [a'lana ghayr dhalik] has been cited by a U.S. television network, but this statement was denied by an adviser at the U.S. Department of State who was speaking to journalists in Cairo last Thursday, Mubarak remarked. President Mubarak reemphasized the position of the U.S. Administration vis-a-vis Jerusalem, whose status will be determined through negotiations [al-quds allati sayatahaddadu mawqifaha min khilal al-mufawadat].

Concerning the possibility that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher might visit the region in the near future, President Mubarak said: Such a visit is likely.

To a question about the attitude of some Arab rulers toward Egypt, President Mubarak said: I don't care about persons, but I do care about the Arab nations. My principal concern is the interest of these nations. We are against the partitioning of Iraq and Sudan.

To another question about the recent visit to Cairo by Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, and the possibilities of arranging a meeting between them in Cairo soon to achieve national reconciliation, President Mubarak said that Egypt is making the necessary contacts in this regard to achieve progress. However, the arrangements for such a meeting in Cairo must be preceded by an agreement between the two sides, President Mubarak added.

Alluding to the issue of national dialogue in Egypt, President Mubarak said that he will call for the start of this dialogue next April and that he will deliver a speech when the dialogue starts. He pointed out that working groups and a committee representing all concerned groups will be formed. He affirmed that the government is currently carrying out tangible and concrete efforts, adding that Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi's tours of various governorates have helped to solve many problems. President Mubarak said that some 200 projects were recently set up in Suhaj Governorate, noting that this will help solve the problem of unemployment.

Continuing, President Mubarak said that the government will make strenuous efforts in the various fields by the end of this year and the beginning of next year.

Commenting on current intensive activity by the political parties to prepare for next year's People's Assembly and Consultative Council elections, President Mubarak said that everybody is encouraged to join such activity and he is sure that the makeup of future parliaments will reflect this popular participation.

He asserted that the government is doing its best to solve all problems, particularly important ones like unemployment. He urged further efforts to solve this problem gradually.

President Mubarak said that in the past Egypt had no currency reserves in the banks and that current reserves must not be squandered but kept for appropriate uses, noting that the money belongs both to the public and the banks.

Discussing the reduced revenue from tourism and the demands made by some people working in the tourist business, he said that the government has exempted owners of tourist businesses in Aswan from taxes for 10 years. He noted, however, that some unreasonable requests are being made. He said many citizens have suffered as a result of lower tourism profits.

Mubarak said although some people are disturbed by the evident wealth of some Egyptians, one must remember that wealthy people who invest their money in projects or spend it at hotels and other places are actually helping to create jobs for others. He explained that this issue must be viewed from a practical angle, taking into account the benefit to society and Egyptian families.

On the South African Committee meeting that President Mubarak chaired in Harare yesterday, the president said that the committee had met to discuss measures by which the OAU could contribute to backing the democratic process in South Africa. President Mubarak noted that the KwaZulu announced their independence yesterday and that they want to set up a state independent of South Africa, but the South African Committee in its meeting yesterday rejected the question of KwaZulu's independence. He noted that the final statement issued by the committee had reaffirmed the territorial integrity of South Africa. President Mubarak added: We will hold urgent and extensive talks with all parties, the major states, and the United States to assist the democratic process in South Africa and facilitate the elections that will be held on 27 April.

President Mubarak noted that the white right-wing party [al-hizb al-abyad al-yamini] in South Africa is pressing the KwaZulu to create these problems, adding that urgent messages will be sent in the next two days to resolve these problems. President Mubarak described the results of the South African Committee meetings as good. He noted that there was a proposal to hold an international conference on the elections in South Africa, but the proposal was not accepted. Besides, he added, the people of South Africa must approve of such a conference first. He pointed out that the elections will be held on 27 April and the South Africans do not want to postpone them, because such a postponement would be a disaster for them and would lead to serious consequences.

Asked if he would go to South Africa on 10 May following the elections in his capacity as OAU chairman, the president said that nothing has been decided yet, adding that this could be determined after the elections. The president expressed concern over the current events in South Africa, where some people are sneaking their money out of the country. He noted that this will have a very negative effect on development in South Africa after the elections. He hoped that there would be stability in South Africa in the coming stage and that the national forces would avoid potential conflicts.

On the status of the KwaZulu in South Africa, President Mubarak said that the KwaZulu have no resources, oil, or minerals, but they are closely linked to the apartheid regime.

Musa on Peace Process, Relations With Iran

NC1803162094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Alexandria, 18 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed that in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations Egypt places its direct and indirect contacts with the various parties at the disposal and in the service of the Arab party.

In an interview on the program "Guest and Issue" transmitted by Arab Radio and Television (ART) from Rome and monitored here today, the foreign minister noted that Egypt is a responsible Arab state. It is the biggest Arab state and it was the one that launched the first initiative for Arab-Israeli peace.

Musa said that the Arab-Israeli conflict has a long and complex history, resulting in numerous concepts and stances. He added that overcoming these contradictory concepts demands three elements: The first is time, the second is determination and persistence, and the third is a high level of negotiating skills.

The foreign minister pointed out that these three elements have made it possible for the Palestinians and Israelis to reach agreement on the Declaration of Principles. But the actual implementation of these principles has been facing many difficulties and obstacles.

Musa said the Palestinian issue is in the process of being solved; the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles marks the beginning of this solution. This also means that there are Palestinian rights that must be accepted and restored, and that the situation cannot continue as it has under any circumstance. The foreign minister affirmed that this agreement was a first step and not the final one, as the Israelis think. He said: Neither the Palestinians nor Egypt would accept this. This step does not give us everything but some of what we want.

He added that there are essential differences between the Israelis and the Palestinians about the details. Both parties maintain positions of principle on every point. He said: We need a step that will touch the essence of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and the word withdrawal is considered extremely important in this regard.

Asked about the issue of regional security, which countries are covered by this security concept, and the relationship between this and the Arab interests, Musa said: Regional security is not open to everyone. Inclusion in it must be the subject of a political decision. Anyone who wants to be included must make many concessions to convince the others of its desire for peace. He added that this applies to states outside the Arab geographical sphere. It also applies to a state such as Israel.

Regarding weapons of mass destruction in Israel, the foreign minister said: A resolution of this issue is a precondition for the establishment of comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Asked about relations with Iran, the foreign minister said there is a very large scope for the establishment of very good relations between Iran and the Arab states. It is possible to have Arab-Iranian cooperation and ties provided Iran proves its true desire for the establishment of such relations and refrains from anything that could negatively affect such relations. He noted that one cannot talk about good relations while part of an Arab state's territory, such as the United Arab Emirates, is under occupation.

Asked about the Middle Eastern market and reports about Israeli and U.S. pressures for the establishment of such a market, Musa said: We cannot prevent any Israeli official from talking about this issue or from visualizing what he wants. But this does not mean that there are Israeli pressures.

Musa affirmed that Israel cannot dominate the economies of the neighboring Arab states, as it is not an oil-producing country and, therefore, cannot control it and its prices.

Notes Settlements, Other Issues

NC2103123894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 21 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that Dennis Ross, the U.S. envoy and coordinator on the Middle East peace talks, will arrive in Cairo tomorrow, Tuesday, to hold talks and consultations on the peace process. This comes as part of his tour of the region to discuss current contacts and the resumption of negotiations.

Musa said in statements today that after the negotiations resume, the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles should be implemented quickly and autonomy should begin in Gaza and Jericho. He added that there is no reason for the continuous stalling and postponement of the Israeli withdrawal and implementation of the agenda agreed on in the Declaration of Principles. We are waiting for this agenda to be finalized, he said, as long as all the parties agree to negotiate.

As for postponing negotiations on the settlements until the final stages of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, Musa said in his statements that the final stage of the negotiations must not be delayed beyond the end of the second year after implementing the current agreement on Gaza and Jericho.

The foreign minister clarified that if the Israeli withdrawal and Palestinian repatriation were to begin a month from now, in April, for example, arrangements should begin then.

'Amr Musa affirmed that the important issue is to immediately stop building new settlements in the occupied Arab territories. No new settlements should be built.

'Amr Musa affirmed that the presence of settlements in the occupied Arab territories causes security violations. Besides, the territories on which these settlements are built do not belong to them. They have absolutely no right to build. Most settlers are criminals, which is not acceptable. We understand that there can be coexistence but we do not understand why a group of crazy criminals or crazy people should be in control, such as Gush Emunim, Kahana Hay, and their ilk, because this is terrorism in its purest form; it is the dangerous and blind kind of terrorism based on fanaticism that is recognized by no law. This is a very important issue.

The foreign minister again demanded that the Palestinians be provided with security. He said this is the lesson we have learned from the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. Musa also asked the Israeli occupation forces to provide the Palestinian people under occupation with protection. This is stipulated by international resolutions.

On the Addis Ababa meeting to convene on 23 March, Musa said that one of the most important topics proposed to the meeting is the mechanism for resolving conflicts in Africa. It will be chaired by Egypt, the current chairman of the OAU.

He said the mechanism will address the issue of the OAU's intervention in current conflicts and in the prevention of disputes that might erupt.

He added that they will discuss the Somalia issue and developments in this connection following the dialogue that took place in Egypt among the 13 Somali factions. Burundi, the conflict between Cameroon and Nigeria, and the situation in Rwanda will also be addressed.

Further Reports on Clinton's Jerusalem Remarks

Paper Suspects Israeli Trap

NC1803130094 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 15 Mar 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Is It the Truth or an Israeli Trap?"]

[Text] I have no idea whether this morning's newspaper reports attributed to Israeli radio are the truth or a premeditated Zionist trap to drive more wedges into existing relations between the United States and the Arab and Islamic countries. These newspapers published a statement by President Clinton declaring that the unified Jerusalem is the capital of Israel.

If this statement is true, then it means there has been a radical change in the U.S. stand on the Jerusalem issue and it also represents a real catastrophe for all the Arab and Islamic countries and the PLO too.

We know that the official U.S. stand on the Jerusalem issue regards East Jerusalem (the Arab part) as an occupied territory to which all the UN resolutions, including Resolution 242, are applicable in the same way they are applicable to all the other occupied territories. But in view of the sensitivity of the status of Jerusalem, both its Arab and Jewish sectors, for the followers of the three major religions—Muslims, Christians, and Jews—and its special sensitivity for Israel and in view of Israel's topographical and demographic changes to Jerusalem, the U.S. stand has been that the future of Jerusalem should be decided during the final stages of the negotiations. And this does not mean that they deny the fact that East Jerusalem is occupied territory. In view of this stand, the United States has so far refused to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Hence, this provocative statement attributed to President Clinton worries the Arabs and Muslims in general and the Palestinians in particular. In our view, if this statement is true then it is hundreds of times more serious than the al-Ibrahmi Mosque massacre because it slaughters our Jerusalem itself and presents it as an offering to Israel.

But it is our duty to wait before being overcome by emotions and first ask the U.S. Administration for a clarification of this grave stand, because I discern in it the involvement of Zionism, which is well versed in the art of driving wedges and laying traps.

It is clear from the report published by AL-AHRAM that Clinton did not say this directly to the conference of the American-Israeli Political Action Committee [AIPAC], the largest of the Jewish-American organizations, but to Steven Grossman, the AIPAC chairman, who cited the U.S. President at the conference. Radio Israel said that the U.S. President told the AIPAC leaders that the United States regards the unified Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. The radio added that Clinton said this in reply to a question from an AIPAC member on the possibility that the Security Council will pass a resolution on the Hebron massacre that will include a reference to Jerusalem as part of the occupied territories. The radio added that Clinton is keen not to let Jerusalem be mentioned in the Council's resolution and designated as part of the occupied territories.

The fact of the matter, as reported by the news agencies and all other media, is that Clinton's objection to any mention of Jerusalem does not stem from his ideas about it being occupied territory but from his desire not to raise it in negotiations until the final stage of the peace process. There is a big difference between these two concerns. The new stand would mean that the United States has unilaterally decided the fate of all Jerusalem in favor of Israel. The old stand means that the fate of Jerusalem remains subject to negotiations; and this in fact is the U.S. stand known to everyone.

It is spurious to note here, as the AIPAC chairman did, that Clinton never mentioned Jerusalem during his election campaign, because the circumstances of the elections are one thing and the official U.S. stand is something else. Why couldn't we say, for example, that Clinton's silence over deciding the fate of Jerusalem in favor of Israel during the elections campaign—that is, when he most needed the Jewish votes and the Zionist lobby's support—is proof that Grossman's statements on Radio Israel are a mere media fabrication or an intentional propaganda ploy meant to embarrass the Arabs and divert any U.S. attempt to force more flexible negotiating stances on Israel?

I therefore advise that we wait and be cautious and also that we seek clarification of the issue from those who have authority to define such stands before we take any action on this very grave affair.

Editorial Says Remarks 'Irresponsible'

NC1803132294 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 16 Mar 94 p 1

[From the "AL-WAFD's View" column: "Who Dares to Object?"]

[Text] We have so far not heard a single Arab capital or leader criticizing the irresponsible remarks of U.S. President Bill Clinton, remarks that Jerusalem is the eternal united capital of Israel.

We have not heard the Jerusalem Committee, which is made up of Arab kings and presidents, breaking its silence to submit an oral or written protest telling that person sitting in the White House that Jerusalem was Arab before he was born and that it will be Arab eternally.

The Arab League, which speaks on behalf of the Arabs, has not called an emergency meeting to discuss this serious shift, which threatens Arab rights to Jerusalem.

Not a single foreign ministry throughout the Arab world has issued a statement, not even a one-page statement, saying that the Arabs reject the provocative U.S. statements and demanding an explanation, if not an apology.

Do these remarks mean that the United States has unilaterally decided to change the bases on which the Madrid peace process was founded?

What kind of talks are these if everything is being determined away from the negotiating table and without involving the negotiators? Can America put on priestly robes and claim to be honest and neutral after this?

With the new Balfour Declaration he just made, Clinton has stooped to the level of blatant bias toward Israel at the expense of Arab rights. We do not dismiss the possibility that he might come out on us one ill-omened morning to announce the movement of the American Embassy to Jerusalem.

O Arabs, wake up and stand up as one man so that we do not lose Jerusalem forever.

PNC's Secretary Comments

NC1803222094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 18 Mar (MENA)—Palestine National Council [PNC] Secretary Muhammad Subayh has stressed that U.S. President Bill Clinton's statement that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel is an Israeli attempt to blackmail the U.S. Administration at a time when it is coming under enormous domestic criticism. In a statement on the sidelines of the Second Conference for Solidarity and Cooperation in the Mediterranean in the 1990's, scheduled to open in Cairo Saturday, he said that this statement, which was broadcast over Israeli Radio, if it was truly made, is considered a violation of the Security Council resolution on Jerusalem and former U.S. administrations' stances, which considered Jerusalem as occupied territory. He noted that such a statement will lead to confusion and harm the peace process, especially at this time when we are talking of a fair and comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy's resolutions, primarily Resolution 242, and of former U.S. President Bush's call for the exchange of land for peace. He pointed out that the Arab and Palestinian stand affirms that what applies to the occupied territories applies to Jerusalem.

Tawfiq Zayyad, member of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality and Nazareth mayor, who is participating in the conference, said that East Jerusalem will remain the eternal capital of a Palestinian state and that any other thinking is a figment of one's imagination. He said that the Arab population of Nazareth, which has been part of the occupied territories since 1948, launched a mammoth uprising and general strike in the wake of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre that occurred in Ramadan. He noted that these people clashed with Israeli police, which arrested 60 to 70 people, including four of his own sons.

It should be recalled that a Palestinian delegation is participating in the Second Conference for Solidarity and Cooperation in the Mediterranean in the 1990's, scheduled to begin in Cairo tomorrow.

Source on 'Contacts' With U.S. on UN Resolution

NC1803181294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Harare, 18 Mar (MENA)—An official Egyptian source stated that Egypt continues its contacts with the United States on the adoption of a Security Council resolution condemning "the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre" on 15 Ramadan, with the aim of resuming the peace negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians, and on the other tracks. In a statement to MENA in Harare today, the source said the issuance of such a resolution by the Security Council would reassure the PLO about the protection and security of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories. He noted that a U.S. veto of such a resolution would be an obstacle to the peace process.

Commentary Notes Importance of Peace Process

NC1803152294 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Commentary by Zayn al-Ja'fari: "Slogans Will Not Help Resolve the Arab-Israeli Conflict"]

[Text] One of the issues over which no one has any doubt, even for one moment, is that every family in the Arab and Islamic worlds was shocked at the bestial and inhuman massacre of the Palestinian Muslims while they were performing their dawn prayers at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. Undoubtedly, this massacre also saddened us greatly. It made some voices in the Arab world ask Egypt in particular to take violent measures in response to the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. This request is based on Egypt's status and importance in the Arab and Islamic worlds. Some went as far as asking that the negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis be halted.

However, we wish to calmly clarify to those who made these demands that by doing so, we would be serving the interests of Israel itself. It would be better for them to ask the Arabs and Muslims to exert greater efforts to rally the support of international public opinion for the Arab cause and put pressure on Israel to provide full protection for the defenseless Palestinian people and the sacred Muslim and Christian shrines in Palestine equally, especially in light of the Security Council's hesitation to pass a resolution condemning this massacre and confirming the need to protect the Palestinians. These voices would fare better if they realize that exploiting this massacre to thwart the peace process only serves to stir up emotions, incite the masses, and repeat those slogans that through experience have proven to lead to nothing except further losses for the Arab side in its struggle with Israel.

We wish to confirm that Egypt and its political leadership are fully convinced of the usefulness and inevitability of peace and that ever since the peace process started, Israel has been trying to escape from the peace siege. Those who have been following the Egyptian stance since the state of Israel was created realize that the Egyptian stance is firm and that Egypt moves in all directions to retrieve Arab rights. Egypt has waged many long wars for this purpose, the last of which was the 1973 war. Egypt's efforts did not stop for one instant. For this purpose, Egypt participates in the other Arab efforts that move in the same direction, particularly since recent international developments have affirmed without a shadow of a doubt that usurped Arab rights cannot be retrieved except with solidarity and coordination among Arab capitals. Such solidarity and coordination has become an urgent need now, especially since Israel is trying to break free from the peace siege. Proof of this is the Israeli Government's stance on the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. Although some Israeli officials condemned this massacre, the essence of Israeli policy toward the settlers and settlements has not changed. Israel depends on two things to continue this policy. The first is that the international community is not yet ready to take decisive measures against Israel; the Security Council's stand is the prime example of this. The second is that the American stand encourages Israel to continue ignoring Arab rights; U.S. President Bill Clinton's statement provided the necessary evidence of this point. He declared his recognition of Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Israel at a time when the blood of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque martyrs had not yet dried.

Egypt has proceeded to reject all measures taken by Israel on Jerusalem after June 1967. Egypt considers these measures null and void. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's statement that Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories was a response to the U.S. President's statement. He described President Clinton's statement as a political and tactical statement.

In light of all this, the importance of proceeding with the peace process becomes clear. Inciting the people and provoking their feelings will not help resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Islamic Group: Attacks 'Retaliation' for Bosnia

NC1903102394 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 16 Mar 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Ali]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A team from the Islamic Group attacked a tourist boat on the morning of 'Id al-Fitr [13 March] near the Island of Mijris, Markaz Sidfa, directly opposite al-Badari Island. The same boat came under another attack half an hour later near Asyut. The boat's guards exchanged fire with the terrorists, who fled in the direction of al-Badari Island.

On the same day, the Islamic Group issued a statement justifying its operations by saying that they were in retaliation for the massacres of Bosnia's Muslims.

The group distributed the statement in Asyut and al-Minya immediately after the 'Id al-Fitr prayers. It threatened to continue the jihad despite the military trials and arrests.

Appealing to Muslim religious scholars, the group said in its statement: To our ulemas who are feigning sorrow over national unity with the Orthodox Christians in Egypt and traveling across the country to attack the Muslim youths and excuse the regime's mistakes, we say that the international news agencies have feigned sorrow over the 200,000 Muslims butchered by Orthodox Serbs, the more than 50,000 Muslim women and girls publicly raped, and the thousands of children buried alive, slaughtered, or placed in cement mixers and fodder mills. What have you done?

The statement also appealed to police officers to join the Islamic Group.

The statement did not refer once to the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron despite its lengthy talk on Bosnia and the mujahidin in Algeria, Tunisia, Kashmir, Libya, Burma, Morocco, Iraq, and Syria. [passage omitted]

Islamic Group Claims Responsibility for Bank Blast

NC2003185094 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] The Islamic Group in Egypt has claimed responsibility for detonating a bomb in front of a Cairo bank yesterday, which wounded one person and caused severe property damage to the building. The Islamic Group has launched more than nine bomb attacks against Egyptian and foreign banks.

In a statement issued today, it warned people who frequent banks of similar attacks. The statement added that yesterday's explosion in front of a building housing the Misr-America International Bank had come in revenge for the execution of two [Army] officers on Thursday on charges of attempting to assassinate Egyptian President Husni Mubarak during a visit to the Sidi Barrani base at the Egyptian-Libyan border in November.

Officials Ban Issue of London-Based Daily

NC1803144594 Paris AFP in English 1343 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, March 18 (AFP)—The Egyptian authorities banned sales of the Friday edition of the London-based Arabic-language daily AL-HAYAT because it reported the execution of the two fundamentalist soldiers accused of plotting to kill Mubarak, reliable sources said.

The Egyptian media did not mention the executions or the trial of the two Islamic militants.

AL-HAYAT is edited in London and distributed in Cairo and other Arab capitals.

Last year the authorities criticised the newspaper several times, notably in connection with its publication of an interview with Shaykh Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, whom the Islamic militants regard as their spiritual leader.

Journalists Detained for Criticizing Government

NC1803221494 Paris AFP in English 2043 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, March 18 (AFP)—Four journalists at a magazine sympathetic to Moslem fundamentalists were detained for criticizing the government and urging Egyptians to protests the Hebron massacre, one of the writers said Friday.

The Al-Sha'b journalists on Thursday had to answer accusations they "incited hatred against the government and published articles threatening social peace and national unity," journalist 'Adil Husayn told AFP.

The four were also accused of urging protests over the February 25 massacre of 30 Arab worshippers at a mosque in the occupied West Bank town of Hebron, said Husayn, who is also secretary general of the opposition Labor Party, an ally of the Moslem Brotherhood.

The prosecutor of Egypt's High State Security Court will decide in the next few weeks whether to put them on trial after summoning the four on Thursday, he said.

The three others are Labor Party Deputy Chairman Hilmi Murad, Managing Editor Majdi Husayn and journalist Mustafa Bakri.

Husayn said it was "legal to criticize multiparty governments as Egypt says it is, but the detention of the journalists reveals totalitarian tendencies contrary to the constitution."

Libya

New Party, Movement for Change, Reform, Founded

PM1803112494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Bisharah Shirbil: "Libyan Salvation Front Dissidents Announce New Organization"]

[Text] London—Those who have split from the National Front for the Salvation of Libya announced yesterday a new organization called the Libyan Movement for Change and Reform [al-harakah al-libiyah littaghyyir al-islah]. Abrik al-Suwaysi was chosen as official spokesman for the organization's constituent committee.

The committee included in its founding statement its overall intellectual and political view of the situation in Libya and possibilities for change. It stressed that it will continue its contacts to convene the constituent conference to form organizational institutions. It also pointed out that its mission ends with the convening of the constituent assembly and that its framework is open to all Libyans who agree with the principles it announced.

Al-Suwaysi told AL-HAYAH that "the announcement of the statement from Geneva has no political significance. We had hoped to announce the organization from a neighboring state, but current circumstances did not permit." He expressed his hope that the constituent conference will be held within four or five months. "The constituent committee is preparing for it and has not set a particular date for it, because we are still at the beginning."

He said that "the Libyan National Army, which is led by Staff Colonel Khalifah Haftar, is an integral part of the organization, as it consists of our comrades who decided to separate from the Salvation Front for the same reasons that prompted us to break away. Col. Haftar is a founding member of the political organization and has both the political and military capacity. However, the Army will not be confined to those who join the organization, but will be open to all Libyans wishing to make sacrifices. We do not make it a condition that membership of the organization be confined to those who want to participate in its military program."

Objectives Outlined

PM1803145094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Mar 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Movement for Change and Reform Announces Its Program, Prepares for Constituent Conference"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—Dissidents of the National Front for the Salvation of Libya announced yesterday the birth of a new Libyan opposition organization called the Libyan Movement for Change and Reform.

The organization's constituent committee named Abrik [as transliterated] al-Suwaysi as its official spokesman. In the founding statement it issued in Geneva yesterday, the committee explained its overall intellectual and political view of Libya's situation and future. It stressed the need to form a democratic system based on free elections, peaceful political practice, and rejection of "any forms of material or organizational linkage with foreign states or political forces and organizations which could blemish national affiliation with the suspicion of loyalty to non-national interests and schemes."

The statement said that preliminary consultations among "a large number of Libyan strugglers" have resulted in the formation of a constituent committee, which has decided the following:

"First, to work to build a political force to be joined by Libyans who reject tyranny and dictatorship and those seeking to restore legitimacy in their country, contribute to correcting its deteriorating conditions, and lay foundations suitable for rebuilding the country with the will of its people and their independent decisionmaking, so that it will be a homeland for pride and dignity and a land for freedom, democracy, stability, development, and progress in the context of the belief in the following basic principles and foundations:

"—The importance of organized political action as a foundation for a civilized civil society.

"—Constitutional legitimacy implemented through in a people's referendum by a free secret ballot as the only basis for government, and considering any authority that is not based on the people's will an illegitimate authority that should be rejected.

"—Democracy as a foundation for the system of government and a method for the peaceful political practice of political action, and the incrimination and combating of the methods of terror and material and moral violence.

"—Islam as the basic source of legislation and a cultural authority on which to rely as a foundation, criteria, and program for the comprehensive cultural transformation process in the various areas of life.

"—The fundamental position held by freedom of opinion and expression among the various basic human freedoms, on the grounds that it is a human value and a principal pillar of a civilized civil society.

"—The fundamental value of work and free initiative as basic pillars of a free and developed economy that is good at utilizing national resources and financial and material capabilities so as to achieve self-sufficiency, stability, and prosperity.

"—Libyan national identity as a basic factor in the various choices relating to Libyan society's transformation from a state of tyranny, chaos, and cultural backwardness to a state of legitimacy, rule of constitutional institutions, and comprehensive cultural advancement. In addition, current local human, cultural, and economic factors are considered basic elements for the authenticity of these choices as distinct from other formulas and methods.

"—Affirmation of a civilized concept of the duties of the security forces, including police and intelligence, namely to protect citizens' security, property, privacy, freedom, and rights, and to protect the security and stability of civilian life in society as a whole, not the ruling executive authority and its continuation in power.

"—Affirmation of the national, pan-Arab, and humanitarian role of the national defense forces, namely to protect constitutional legitimacy, safeguard the national territory's independence and unity, and contribute positively to pan-Arab and humanitarian efforts to establish peace and guarantee the people's right to self-determination.

"—National unity represented in territorial integrity and the Libyan people's unity, and commitment to bolstering, consolidating, protecting, and defending it against racial, frontal, and tribal disputes and to fighting any inclinations or attempts to strike at it or impair it.

"—National affiliation represented in the sincere affiliation of Libyans—individuals and political forces—to their homeland and people; affirmation of the independence of the national will; and rejection of any forms of material or organizational linkage with foreign states or political forces and organizations which could blemish national affiliation with the suspicion of loyalty to non-national interests and schemes.

"—Arab affiliation, on the grounds that Libya is part of the Arab nation and bound to it culturally and by destiny.

"—Islamic affiliation, on the grounds that Libya is part of the Islamic world, proceeding from the faith and Islamic values. It interacts with it and is aware of the nation's reality and current issues.

"—Affiliation to the international community by virtue of the scale and nature of international interactions and the belief in Libya's role founded on the establishment of international relations based on the principles of peace, cooperation, and noninterference in the internal affairs of the other peoples and states.

"Second, it has been initially agreed to call this new struggle formula the Libyan Movement for Change and Reform and to choose brother struggler Abrik al-Suwaysi as official spokesman for the constituent committee.

"Third, to continue contacts, consultations, and endeavors in order to complete the elements and requirements needed for the convening of the constituent conference, which will be devoted to achieving the following steps:

"—To endorse the basic principles and general features of the struggle and political program;

"—To endorse the name and slogans;

"—To elect the various organizational institutions;

"In announcing this practical preliminary step, the Constituent Committee of the Libyan Movement for Change and Reform is eager to stress the following:

"—Its members do not claim anything other than the honor of taking the initiative to shoulder part of the responsibility to achieve this historic national endeavor.

"—Their mission will end with the convening of the constituent assembly, which alone will be entitled to take the various organizational, political, and practical decisions, including selecting and electing the institutions and leaderships in a democratic manner based on free choice and the adoption of the majority's opinion.

"—The door is open to all Libyan strugglers who agree in principle with the intellectual and political features declared in this statement in order to contribute to enriching and bolstering this historic national endeavor and join the ranks of those who took the initiative, in order to make it a success."

Meanwhile, Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Ghalbun, leader of the Libyan Constitutional Union, has welcomed the establishment of the new organization, describing it as "a tributary of national action and a comrade on the road of sacrifice for the sake of ridding our homeland of its current predicament." He wished it and its founders "success."

'Informed Sources': Missing Former Official Still Alive

JN1803133694 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 14-20 Mar 94 p 4

[Text] According to informed sources speaking to AL-WASAT, intelligence circles following the case of Mansur al-Kikhya, who disappeared in Cairo, have established that the former Libyan foreign minister is still alive and is now in Libya. These circles predict rapid developments in the affair.

JANA: Clinton's Jerusalem Remarks Result of 'Pressures'

LD1903211994 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1910 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Mar, JANA—Various international information organs have reported American President Clinton's statements that the Arab city of Jerusalem was the united and eternal capital of the Zionist entity.

JANA's international affairs editor has commented on those reports saying: Such statements have revealed that the American President was under pressures from the Jewish lobby in America. It was the Jews who initiated the Whitewater scandal and they implicated Clinton in it, and because of its repercussions, which have increased his fears for his political future as president, the American President is now trying to side fully with them. However, the victims of such a support will be, without any doubts, the Arabs, as usual.

The American President's announcement that he supported the idea of Jerusalem as the united and eternal capital of the Zionist entity was like a new Belfort [name as received] Declaration, through which he who did not own gave to whom who did not deserve. If the American President wanted to give something to the Jews why doesn't he give them his wife, Washington, or New York for example; Jerusalem is an Arab city and he has nothing to with it.

JANA's international affairs editor wondered, however: Where the Arabs were, at time they can see that their capitals were being sold to or just given away in order to win the Jews' amity? Where are those who have been singing pan-Arabism, Islam praises, and lifting the banner of martyrdom at a time when they can see Christians showing contempt to their holy places and legitimizing their usurpation by the Jews?.

The editor added: The time to sort out who is who has arrived because matters have become clear; any Arab, who stands with America, is an infidel. Arabs ought to carry out Jihad; they have every right to martyrdom for the sake of their land and their rights.

'Vaguely Worded' Hebron Resolution Examined

LD1903190094 Tripoli JANA in English 1841 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] New York, Al Rabia [March] 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—After more than three weeks since the massacre was committed by the Israeli terrorists at al-Hram al-Ibrahimi, the so called Security Council adopted a vaguely worded condemnation of the massacre without any reference to its perpetrators. Despite the vagueness of the resolution, the USA abstained from voting for the resolution. Moreover the American representative declared that her government opposed any reference to the Arab lands occupied by Israel as occupied lands including the city of Jerusalem.

The Security Council resorted, on the behest of the USA, to a strange way in voting on the resolution. Accordingly, voting was taken on each paragraph separately. The resolution did not refer to any responsibility of the Israelis in this crime nor to any condemnation of Israel's state terrorism.

The condemnation was worded, in each paragraph, in a manner that did not refer directly to those responsible for the massacre or charging anyone for this act.

JANA's editor for international affairs described what took place in the so called Security Council as a new absurdity showing once again that the Security Council is a lie. This showed clearly that the Security Council is the Western Christian countries, if not America, which dominate it and that the alliance between Christians and Jews against Muslims lies behind this American stance towards the massacre of al-Haram al-Ibrahimi. It has become clear to the whole world that the resolutions passed in the name of the Security Council especially in relation to Arab matters are wholly Western-American resolutions. The resolution was adopted without any effective condemnation of Israel for terrorism for America did not want this condemnation or sanctions imposed on Israel whereas when it comes to issues which may serve her political objectives, America pass, on mere suspicion, resolutions of condemnation for terrorism imposing sanctions and embargo and applying Chapter Seven of the U.N Charter against whomever she wishes. This stance exposes America and deprives her even of the fig leaf revealing her before the whole world as a terrorist state sponsoring and supporting official terrorism and protecting its perpetrators.

JANA's editor for international affairs concluded his commentary by stressing that "the act of the Security Council today shows clearly what the leader of the revolution meant in statement immediately in the wake of the massacre of al-Haram al-Ibrahimi when he declared 'although the massacre represents the most hideous act of terrorism ever seen in the world.' It is clear and express act of terrorism but we challenge the West to announce this fact and admit that the act of the Israelis is a premeditated official terrorism. It is part of a long chain of Israeli terrorist acts and condemn the Israelis for terrorism."

Suspects in 1993 Coup Attempt Reportedly Tortured

NC1703184694 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] A Libyan opposition group has announced that the Libyan (?intelligence service) tortured Libyan Army officers who had been involved in an unsuccessful bid to overthrow the regime and forced them to appear on television to publicly confess that they had been spying for the United States.

A spokesman for the Libyan National Salvation Front [words indistinct] that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi continued to deny there had been a rebellion even though Arab diplomatic sources in Libya assert that a rebellion really did occur.

At the time of the rebellion, press sources said it was organized by Islamic hardliners among the Army officers. These sources said the rebellion started on 11 October 1993.

Tunisia

President Stresses 'Patriotic Duty' To Vote

LD1803223494 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Address to the nation by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on 18 March, place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Citizens, men and women. Following the conclusion of the presidential and legislative elections campaign, polling begins on 20 March, the anniversary of Independence Day. In the context of my own following up of the electoral campaign and preparations for polling day, I noticed two things:

First, some political parties have designated only a few monitors in polling stations despite the fact that we extended the official deadline by 24 hours for them. What is regrettable is that they have not remedied the situation.

As for the second matter, for which municipalities and sub-municipalities are responsible, it concerns the distribution of voting cards. I gave firm instructions that citizens be informed of the need to register their names in the electoral lists, and to enable them to ascertain this registration in the reviewing period so as to avoid any mistake, overlooking or omission. I also ordered that they be given enough time beyond the registration deadline to register and remedy the situation. Furthermore, I instructed the relevant authorities on the municipal and sub-municipal level to be careful to prepare the voter registration cards properly, so as to avoid all types of mistakes with names and addresses, and to make sure that it is sent or handed to them within the deadline, before voting starts. It has come to my attention that some voters have not received their cards either because their names are not on the lists—in spite of their assurance that they had registered their names previously—or because of a mistake with the names and addresses, or merely because of a failure in distribution.

Cases like this contradict our desire to enable everyone who has the right to take part in the elections to carry out that right, which is guaranteed in the constitution and the law. It also does not give a positive image of the work of the municipalities—which I have always reaffirmed are the first school for democracy, and for the development of the civic spirit, and for the kindling of the sense of citizenship in the nation—in addition to it hurting the image of the administration in the mind of the citizen.

I place full responsibility for any failure, if this is proved to be the case, on the municipal leaders and their general secretaries. To avoid such a situation, I have given instructions to the Interior Ministry to take note of this matter in the time remaining before the beginning of voting by taking the necessary measures to enable all voters to receive their cards.

Fellow citizens, to vote is not a mere formality nor is it an obligation, but it is a patriotic duty and a civil right represented by the casting your vote in favor of whoever you see as eligible to represent you at the House of Deputies. It is also a right and a duty to underline the involvement in and positive response to the national cultural project—a large part of which we have accomplished—and a great deal is expected from it due to the legitimate aspirations and the challenges which we should overcome with God's help.

The joined daily effort to which we adhered as a principle and a value, begins from the voting process itself. To let our people practice this responsibility, having reached a high degree of maturity, rationality, and eligibility for an organized and developed political life, the administrative bodies should facilitate the performance of this duty and the practice of this right to everyone by providing them with the legal means namely the electoral card.

It is, at the same time, the main precondition for the involvement of everyone with renewable impetus, sincere resolve, and a high spirit of responsibility in the new take-off with which we are preparing our country to occupy the highest status in continuation of what we started on 7 November [1987].

Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

President Reelected With 99 Percent of Votes

LD2103124394 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1207 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Successive announcements have been made since dawn today on the results of the presidential and legislative elections that took place yesterday, Sunday. Interior Minister Abdallah Kallel will officially announce the results at a news conference this afternoon. As a reminder, the turnout at these elections was unparalleled with more than 90 percent of voters, men, and women, taking part in the vote in the 25 electoral districts. The presidential elections were marked by an absolute popular plebiscite for President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali; the percentage of the vote for President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali exeeded 99 percent and this rate reached 100 percent in Tataouine.

As for the legislative elections, the lists of the Democratic Constitutional Rally won in all districts with an extremely high percentage of votes, but these results will assuredly lead to the entry of the other parties into the chamber of deputies for the first time in the history of Tunisia due to the amendment to the electoral code, which guarantees the presence of these parties in parliament.

Kuwait

Defense Minister: Budget Delaying Missile Purchase

LD2003084494 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0755 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Kuwait, 20 Mar—In an interview published here today, Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah ruled out that the ministry would review or withdraw from purchasing a number of U.S. Patriot missiles.

The defense minister's statement to the AL-ANBA' newspaper followed reports on the dependence of the U.S. Army on new missiles, cancelling its dependence on the Patriot in air defense missions. The Kuwaiti defense minister clarified to the newspaper that the new type of missiles were still being tested for their effectiveness. He added that the upgraded Patriot missile that was being used by the U.S. Army would be the same type used by Kuwaiti forces.

Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah justified the delay in purchasing these missiles and other types of armament and military equipment for the forces by citing a delay in the approval of the military budget. He also added that a reduction in the number of American technicians working in the various army units came after they had concluded their duties. He said they had completed their business and that their contracts had ended in a normal manner.

Official Denies Iraqi Offer for Prisoner Exchange

LD2103111794 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0821 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 21 March—In a press statement published here today, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd-al-'Aziz al- Dakhil has denied reports of the existence of an Iraqi offer to exchange Kuwaiti prisoners still in the Iraqi regime's prisons for 11 Iraqis being tried in Kuwait charged with attempting to assassinate former American President George Bush. The newspaper AL-ANBA quoted the minister of state for cabinet affairs as saying that the State of Kuwait "has not and will not agree to this type of maneuvering and trickery, which is undertaken by the Baghdad regime from time to time to create a stir and give the international community the impression that it is seeking to find stability in the region." He pointed out that "the aim behind this attempt is to lift the economic sanctions that have been imposed on Iraq for some time now." [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Paper: Clinton Jerusalem Comment 'Insult' to Arabs

LD1803131894 Riyadh SPA in English 1242 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Riyadh, March 18, SPA—Saudi papers on Friday tackled a number of regional and international topics.

Commenting on the development of the peace process in the Middle East following the vicious massacre of Hebron last month, the Jeddah-based AL-MADINAH cited statements made recently by the Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and a high-ranking Israeli general and said the statements made it clear that Israel does not sincerely interest in peace and talking about peace is just for local consumption and for wasting time. [passage omitted]

For its part, 'UKAZ, also published in Jeddah, expressed surprise on the American latest positions on the peace process in the Middle East and said the American stand would not remove obstacles that hinder realisation of a peaceful settlement.

The paper criticized the U.S. attempts to prevent the Security Council from making a resolution to denounce the massacre of Hebron. It also deplored a statement attributed to President Clinton recently on the status of al-Quds [Jerusalem] as an insult for the Arab and Moslim people.

The paper cited the importance of an international protection for the residents of the occupied lands before making any breakthrough in peace talks. [passage omitted]

'Source' Refutes TEHRAN TIMES on Oil Production

LD1803145994 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1345 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Riyadh, 18 Mar (SPA)—A responsible source at the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources said in a statement to SPA today that what was published yesterday, 17 March, by the TEHRAN TIMES on Saudi Arabia's oil production and policy was merely unfounded newspaper fabrication which was not based on reality.

He added that "the international oil industry and international oil organizations, including OPEC, consider the TEHRAN TIMES to be an unreliable source of information and oil analyses. That is, it is a newspaper that lacks credibility and no trust can be placed in what it says about the oil situation in the Arab Gulf region or outside it."

He said: "All specialized oil publications, organizations, and oil information centers certify that the Kingdom adheres to its allotted quota and to all the agreements it signs. In contrast, Iran, according to most sources, adheres to its quota only when it is incapable of production." The source added: "The untrustworthy Iranian oil policy has become a source of annoyance inside OPEC and helped prices to fall over the past four months."

The source concluded his statement by saying: "The attempt by the TEHRAN TIMES to avoid talking about the deteriorating economic conditions inside Iran as a result of the poor financial and oil policies of the Iranian Government and to blame others for this is a desperate effort; neither the outside world nor the Iranian people themselves will believe it."

Yemen

Basindawah Briefs Foreign Envoys on Crisis

JN2003130194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Foreign Minister brother Muhammad Salim Basindwah received a number of friendly states' ambassadors in Sanaa at noon today. He briefed them on the situation in Yemen as a result of the current political crisis. He expressed the thanks of the president, leadership, government, and people of Yemen for their support for Yemen's unity and democracy, for their interest in our country's security, safety, and stability, and for their respective countries' sincere and unbiased stands on the crisis.

He said he appreciated all friends' sincere efforts to contain the crisis, especially those that are being exerted by the United States. He emphasized the call for their respective countries to deal directly with the Foreign Ministry in its capacity as our country's main channel of contact and representative of the constitutional legitimate authority of the Republic of Yemen.

General People's Congress Assails al-Bid Statement

JN1903155794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Statement by "responsible source" at the General People's Congress General Committee to SABA'; date not given]

[Excerpt] We were all surprised by the statement by brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Presidential Council vice chairman, to the United Arab Emirates' English-language newspaper, THE GULF NEWS, on 16 March. These statements were reported by news agencies and some world radios. Al-Bid said in that interview that if a plebiscite is held in the southern and eastern provinces, the majority will prefer returning to conditions that existed before 22 May 1990. This is secession.

We regret this statement by the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] secretary general. It casts doubt on the patriotism of citizens in the southern and eastern provinces and on their adherence to unity. We express our absolute rejection of this accusation, which we consider to be directed against all the Yemeni people. We consider this statement an accusation of the YSP itself because we firmly believe most YSP members adhere to, and will continue to adhere to, unity and democracy. The forces of defection and secession that have influence inside the YSP draw strength from foreign forces that target unity and democracy in Yemen. We believe this statement is not only a serious accusation directed against the the Yemeni people, particularly the majority of YSP members, but also a statement with very serious dimensions. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

President on Prospects for Arab Unity, Other Issues

PM2103153094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Mar 94 p 5

[Interview with Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, by unidentified correspondent in al-Jarf [as transliterated], between Abu Dhabi and Dubai, "yesterday"]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAYAH] The United Arab Emirates [UAE] is the only continuing and prosperous Arab unity. In your view, what are the reasons for its success, and how do you view the UAE's future?

[Al Nuhayyan] The UAE union will remain eternal, especially after the success of its experiment and the continued efforts to safeguard it. Nothing fragments and destroys a building except failure to look after it and failure to continue to give and build. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] Your Highness Mr. President, do you believe that the time has come to end the serious Arab split caused by the Gulf crisis and achieve Arab reconciliation, and what do you believe is the means to achieve that, given that you have frequently called for Arab solidarity and supported the Arab League secretary general's initiative in this connection?

[Al Nuhayyan] The Arab nation's split and fragmentation existed before the Gulf war, but this war has aggravated and deepened this split. However, if there is now an inclination and a change of ideas for the sake of correcting the Arab march, eliminating disputes, and seriously and sincerely bolstering the unity of Arab ranks and linking the brothers' destiny, it will be a good thing.

As for the union some people believe should be established from the east to the west of the Arab world and which should have one leader, that is unacceptable, impossible, and never happened anywhere in the world before, neither in the East nor in the West. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] Do you agree with the view that reconciliation is unlikely as long as President Saddam Husayn is still in power, as the wounds of the Gulf crisis in the Arab body still have not healed? Saddam is still in power, and the international embargo is inflicting a great deal of suffering on the Iraqis. How do you see a way out of this suffering?

[Al Nuhayyan] The Iraqi people's suffering is not caused by us; Saddam Husayn is responsible for it. We pray to God to show Saddam Husayn the right way one day. If the Arabs agree with one another, he might change his opinion and follow the right path that pleases him, the Iraqi people, and the Arab nation. Maybe that will be achieved. We should not give up hope. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] What stage has been reached in the problem of the UAE islands (Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa) occupied by Iran, and are you contemplating a new step that may restore the claimants' rights?

[Al Nuhayyan] We want something new. But when we hear Iran's statements, we find them remote from what we are contemplating. How can we negotiate with or get anything from someone who seizes a right and alleges it was his in the past? But if someone says this is mine and I have the evidence, others can provide their own evidence too. If their evidence is stronger, the right is theirs. If our evidence is stronger, the right is ours. If Iran's statements are made in such a manner, we would say: Yes, that is good and correct. But if we are told, we have our evidence and do not know whether our brothers and neighbors have any, the truth of this evidence can only be established through arbitration.

If we submit our evidence and they submit theirs to arbitration, it is arbitration which will decide which is correct and which is wrong.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you mean turning to the International Court of Justice in The Hague?

[Al Nuhayyan] Yes.

[AL-HAYAH] The U.S. Administration accuses Iran of supporting terrorism and stresses its concerns over Iran's endeavors to possess a huge military arsenal. Do you share these concerns with the Americans? What is your opinion of the "dual containment" pursued by President Bill Clinton's administration toward Iraq and Iran? How do you see the future of relations with Iran?

[Al Nuhayyan] The United States knows the truth about Iran just as it knows the truth about Iraq. And Iran too knows the truth about the United States. Each knows the other. Every state wants equality, justice, and reconciliation with its neighbors and friends, and it has its own methods. But if a state wants to achieve something for itself and deny it to others, it is pursuing methods that moves it away from its neighbors, especially the states with which it has issues. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] How would you assess the peace process between the Palestinians and the Israelis, and what are the requirements for ending the Middle East problem? It has been reported that Abu-'Ammar will visit the UAE soon. Did he request a visit or did you invite him?

[Al Nuhayyan] We did not invite him. He wants to come, but we postponed his visit. We told him: You have something more important to do now. Your visit to us is not the important one. What is important is for you to correct yourself, your people, and homeland, then visiting us is open to you.

[AL-HAYAH] Is there a specific date for the visit?

[Al-Nuhayyan] No.

[AL-HAYAH] In view of the Gulf war experience, some Gulf states decided to sign security agreements with major states. Are you thinking of concluding a similar agreement, especially after the ruling out of the formation of a unified 100,000-strong Gulf army?

[Al Nuhayyan] That depends on the situation and the need. If someone needs to build a home to protect him from rain, he begins to build it. If he needs an airconditioned house, he begins to build it. The UAE acts according to its needs, and nothing at all can stop us from doing what we believe achieves our security, existence on the ground, and respect. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] Oil prices have slumped—which affects the income of the producing states, including the UAE. At the recent meeting the UAE proposed a production ceiling. Is that still your position, given that you have always urged cooperation between producers and consumers so that everyone can get his rights?

[Al Nuhayyan] The UAE is one of several fraternal states, and it will support what makes its sisters happy. It will not move in front of them or stay behind them. This is the UAE's position.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you mean that the UAE is coordinating with the fraternal states?

[Al Nuhayyan] Yes. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] Is there a possibility of a cabinet reshuffle soon?

[Al-Nuhayyan] Yes.

[AL-HAYAH] You criticized the position of both East and West. Do you believe the Arabs and Muslims have in one way or another disappointed the Bosnian Muslims, and what are the means of building new Arab and Islamic support for these people?

[Al Nuhayyan] The Arabs cannot be blamed in any way. The blame should be pinned on the major states talking about justice and human rights. You heard a great deal about these states' talk about human rights. They are interested in the human rights of people who are far from them, not those of the people in their region. They talk about human rights, and yet the Bosnians are being murdered, expelled, and deprived of their territory and children. Human rights have not helped them at all.

There is a lot of talk and little action. Anyone who talks a lot does little. It is the major states' responsibility, not the Arab states' responsibility. Because the Arab states are still in the process of building themselves and have not achieved anything, and so are the Islamic states. May God enable us to achieve what we want for our Arab and Islamic nation.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you believe that the Gulf states can surmount the complications of the occupation and liberation of Kuwait, hence enabling the Arab states to return to unified action?

[Al-Nuhayyan] If all the Arab states have the desire and seriousness, the Arab nation—Kuwait and others—will be fine. If we remember what we have lost in the past, avoid the methods that harmed us in the past, and think about the methods that benefit, strengthen, and unite us as an Arab nation, the Arab nation will restore its glory. Our unity is our strength and the Arab nation's eternal asset. If we believe in that, every good will be achieved.

Wrapup of Events Related to UNSC, Embargo, Sanctions

'Aziz Meets Various Envoys

JN1803203594 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] This morning, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz conferred with ambassadors of the nonaligned nations at the UN Security Council. After the session, 'Aziz told journalists he laid out to the envoys Iraq's position on sanctions.

The nonaligned membership of the coucil comprises Oman, Djibouti, Pakistan, Nigeria, and Rwanda.

The deputy prime minister had earlier received at his residence Permanment Representative Li Xhaoxing, the PRC ambassador at the Security Council.

UNSC Activities Detailed

JN1803151594 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] For the third consecutive day, the UN Security Council members failed to agree on the new formula of the president's statement the council is expected to issue on the bimontly review of the embargo against Iraq. The UN Security Council is scheduled to hold another session at 1900 today, Baghdad time. Sources that participated in the council's deliberations yesterday told journalists that a clear rift in the positions of UN Security Council members has resulted in two groups. The first adopts the formula of previous council statements that automatically renew the embargo every two months. This group comprises the United States, the United Kingdom, and Argentina. The second group adopts a new formula for the president's statement reflecting the progress achieved in the implementation of resolution 687 and Iraq's acceptance of resolution 715. This group is led by France, China, and Russia, and is supported by other member countries.

It has been noticed that this time the Russian envoy has spoken forcefully in favor of the new formula, in accordance with instructions the Russian ambassador received from Moscow. Other sources said the Spanish and Czech ambassadors have asked to consult their governments before defining their position on the new statement.

Another report from New York says diplomats from various delegations today emphasized that UN Security Council members are divided about the position to take toward Iraq because both the United States and the United Kingdom strongly oppose any recognition that Iraq has made some progress in implementing the UN Security Council resolutions.

It has been decided to hold new consultations in this respect this evening, 18 March. However, Vorontsov, the Russian ambassador to the United Nations, ruled out the possibility of reaching an agreement on any formula. Vorontsov said the UN Security Council members are divided on this topic for the first time in four and one-half years.

Other diplomats in the United Nations said France, China, Russia, and Brazil and other countries want the UN Security Council to recognize that Iraq has made some progress in implementing the council's resolutions. However, the United States and the United Kingdom reject this idea. They voiced their displeasure with the recent Iraqi letter to the UN Security Council in which Iraq asked the council to respect the provisions of its resolutions on lifting the oil embargo from Iraq.

A diplomat from Latin America who was present at the UN Security Council session yesterday said U.S. Ambassasor Madeleine Albright appeared to be very disturbed and agitated by the Iraqi letter, describing it as humiliating. She said UN Security Council resolutions are adopted by council members, not by Iraq.

UK envoy Sir David Hannay was also disturbed by the Iraqi letter. He said: The letter is the cause of the problem that the council is experiencing. When the journalists asked him why the embargo against Iraq continues after it has demonstrated obvious cooperation in implementing UN Security Council resolutions, he admitted Iraq has shown cooperation. However, he claimed his country and the United States need some time to test the seriousness of Iraq's cooperation. This is a diplomatic expression to cover up a position that is hostile to Iraq.

In a related development, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz last night met with special commission Chairman Ambassador Rolf Ekeus. The meeting, which went on for one and one-half hours, was attended by members of the Iraqi delegation, the special commission vice chairman and some of its members.

Before entering the meeting, Ekeus told journalists outside the house of the Iraqi UN envoy that the technical meetings were good. He said: These meetings helped us clarify certain issues. We hope we will be able to complete them quickly.

Asked about what he will discuss with Tariq 'Aziz, Ekeus said: I will clarify certain basic points. We are interested in listening to his remarks.

Ekeus expressed dissatisfaction with Iraq's letter that Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz presented the day before yesterday. Ekeus did not say why is he is dissatisfied. The letter reminds the Security Council of its obligations to lift the embargo because Iraq had fulfilled its obligations according to Resolutions 687 and 715.

Following his meeting with Tariq 'Aziz, Ekeus told journalists outside the Iraqi ambassador's house: We have exchanged views as part of the ongoing dialogue between us. I must not say anything further.

He then said: Every day, we in the commission are progressing further toward the future monitoring. We will continue the technical talks. We hope to complete them today, Friday.

Asked by journalists about issues that are still pending, Ekeus said: After Iraq's acceptance of Resolution 715, last January we received statements from Iraq that were needed to start the monitoring. In the commission, we are trying to mass all of our resources to start the monitoring and resolve the remaining problems, or so he alleges.

Outcome of UNSC Sanctions Review Noted

JN1803220594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2105 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] New York, 18 Mar (INA)—News from New York says that the UN Security Council [UNSC] decided tonight not to issue its traditional statement which it makes bimonthly when it reviews the siege imposed on Iraq.

French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee, the Security Council president, told journalists following the council's consultations tonight that the council completed its review of the embargo on Iraq in accordance with Resolutions 687 and 715, without giving further details.

This is the first time in three and one-half years that the UNSC has refrained from issuing its traditional statement on extending the unjust siege on Iraq.

Diplomatic sources in the United Nations told an INA correspondent that this was due to the division between UNSC permanent members, which are divided into two groups. The first group comprises France, Russia, and China, which insists on recognizing the positive development that has taken place between Iraq and the United Nations. The second group comprises the United States and Britain, which wants to maintain previous UNSC president statements, which usually say that the council did not note progress in Iraq's abidance by UN resolutions. The United States and Britain insist on this formula, and the two countries suffered a severe failure at the council today.

The diplomatic sources added that the result of the council's three-day consultations are considered an important diplomatic gain for Iraq, and that the second group, which comprises the United States, Britain, and Argentina, have become isolated in the council.

Following the council meetings, Yuri Vorontsov, Russia's permanent UN representative, explained his country's position during the three-day consultations. He said during the consultations the Russian delegation said there are positive elements in Iraq's implementation of Resolution 687 and long-term monitoring according to Resolution 715.

Vorontsov added that the Russian delegation has behaved out of conviction, and demanded that the positive elements in Iraq's position be encouraged, therefore, the Russian delegation demanded to include in the periodic presidential statement a clear paragraph that points to this positive position adopted by Iraq.

Vorontsov said: At the council's consultations, we clearly stressed the need to specify when the long-term monitoring measures began and the duration of the experiment. We proposed that the experiment be for a period of six months, for example, at the end of which Russia would be prepared to discuss lifting the oil embargo in implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

As for British Envoy Sir David Hannay, he attempted to belittle the importance of the outcome reached by the UNSC. He did not make statements to attract the attention of reporters, as has been his custom after each and every session of the UNSC.

Meanwhile, U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright made no comment. She left this for her secretary, who reiterated the U.S. position, saying: "It is no secret that we want to maintain the embargo against Iraq. However, some UNSC members do not wish this to happen."

An ambassador of a UNSC member who preferred to remain anonymous said that the climate of today's consultations is a crucial factor that will be to Iraq's advantage in the next periodic review due to be held on 18 May.

Some diplomatic sources said that the climate at the UNSC today was the first of its kind, as there was a clear rift between the two groups. It is a turning point in favor of Iraq, the sources added.

The sources went on to say that U.S. Ambassador Albright attempted to raise irrelevant issues to distract the deliberations, alleging that her government has information indicating that Iraq is massing its troops to attack Kurds. However, the U.S. attempt has failed, because the French, Russian, PRC, and other ambassadors ignored this attempt, and insisted that the statement clearly acknowledge the positive developments in Iraq's position. Nonetheless, the Americans and Britons maintained their anti-Iraq position, thus eliciting this outcome of the UNSC review, namely, the decision to maintain the sanctions for two more months pending the next review of the sanctions on 18 May, which is expected to be in favor of Iraq.

Arab League Envoy Comments

NC2003150994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraqi permanent delegate to the Arab League, has stated that yesterday's renewal of sanctions on Iraq will have a tremendous effect on the Iraqi people and will cause more deaths among the Iraqi women, children, and patients.

In a statement here today, Dr. Najm described this step as one that "will not help stability in the region" and denounced what he called "the double standards adopted by the Security Council on Arab issues."

The Iraqi delegate denied that Iraq had proposed to swap some Kuwaiti detainees with some Iraqi defendants detained in Kuwaiti prisons on charges of attempting to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush. He added that this is completely untrue because Iraq has no Kuwaiti detainees.

Papers Urge End To Blockade

JN1903113994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0754 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Mar (INA)—Today's Iraqi papers stress that the opposition to the U.S. and British viewpoint at the UN Security Council legitimizes the Iraqi people's options for removing the injustice being exercised against them and for ending the sanctions which the UN Security Council has failed to lift as a result of the political conspiracy of Washington and Zionism.

In today's articles and commentaries, the papers stress that what happened at the UN Security Council yesterday reveals the magnitude of the dangerous anti-Iraq plot and underlines the deep links between the Zionist and U.S. interests and a full U.S. readiness to implement Zionist circles' desires to weaken Iraq and curb its pan-Arab intellectual renaissance.

AL-QADISIYAH says that the split the Iraqi position has effected among the permanent UN Security Council member states affirms the legitimacy of the Iraqi position and the legitimacy of any move that Iraq might deem necessary to open for its people a window of hope for ending the blockade.

AL-QADISIYAH continues: Lifting the blockade has become a matter of life or death for the Iraqi people. Therefore, as a people, they are entitled to do whatever their leadership, which is aware of the dark corners of the political plot that is being implemented against them, deems necessary to lift the blockade by all available means and to reassess all the stands that have led and lead to maintaining the blockade against them.

BABIL says that the Iraqi people are waging the battle of Iraq and the Arab nation together, and that their success in putting an end to the blockade means thwarting the attempts and plans to besiege the masses of the Arab nation.

Reviewing the current Arab state of affairs, BABIL indicates that Libya, just like the people of Iraq, is being subjected to an air blockade. Meanwhile, Sudan is being subjected to an aggressive scheme aimed at imposing an unjust blockade, and our Palestinian people have been subjected to a continuous Zionist siege since the breakout of the intifadah. The paper says that the policy of imposing blockades has been adopted as an available means to besiege the Arab nation, beginning with the countries rejecting U.S.-Zionist hegemony, and ending with any hope for success by emerging Arab powers.

BABIL warns the Arab nation against the gravity of the schemes to besiege the Arab nation. It urges parties, movements, federations, unions, and all social forces to work and struggle to support Iraq's pan-Arab position and to confront the evil powers. It calls on Arab institutions, beginning with the Arab League and its organizations and ending with Arab regimes, to adopt a clear and explicit stance against the continued blockade.

BABIL stresses that the current circumstances experienced by the Iraqi people provide a historic chance for whoever wants to atone for his sins or the sins being committed in his name against the Iraqi people to do so, for such sins have encouraged the aggressors to launch their treacherous aggression and to maintain the blockade. To atone for their sins, they should declare a clear and explicit stance against the continued blockade.

AL-JUMHURIYAH describes what happened at the UN Security Council yesterday as an obvious political and diplomatic defeat for the United States and Britain and an end for the U.S. honeymoon at the UN Security Council, which has lasted for over three years.

The paper says that when three members—France, Russia, and China—of the five permanent members demand that the positiveness of the Iraqi position be recognized, it signals a change and a number of important facts, most prominent of which is that the United States has lost its ability to issue easy resolutions and to impose its will on the Security Council.

The paper explains that Washington has come to realize the long- term significance of this change, which particularly means that the battle for lifting the blockade has entered its most critical turning point and that the U.S. logic has proved unsuccessful unconvincing even inside U.S. Congress.

AL-JUMHURIYAH continues: What happened at the Security Council yesterday reveals a third fact which tells us that renewing the blockade every two months is no longer something that can be unilaterally decided by the United States. Rather, such a decision is now influenced by the wills and interests of other countries, because the blockade not only harms the Iraqi people, but also the international community as a whole.

The paper expresses confidence that month after month, the stand of the states supporting the lifting of the blockade will become stronger and firmer, thus leading to the emergence of a legal argument and a conflict of interests which will turn the disagreement that emerged yesterday to a crisis that will escalate violently every two months, thus provoking disputes and differences, and perhaps a serious crisis, until the blockade comes to an end.

Commentary Notes Country's Rights

JN1903204094 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1723 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Unattributed commentary from the "Spotlight on News" program]

[Text] The U.S. Administration has once again pressed the UN Security Council to renew the blockade imposed on Iraq's people since August 1990. The statement the

Security Council issued to announce that the blockade on Iraq will continue has caused outrage inside and outside Iraq. Political observers believe the consultations the Security Council held over the last three days resulted in a clear division among the Security Council's permanent member states. They were divided into two groups. The first is France, Russia, and the PRC, which all insist on recognizing positive developments in relations between Iraq and the United Nations, as well as Iraq's compliance with all the commitments imposed on it in accordance with Resolution No. 687. The second group is the United States and Britain, which want to keep matters as they are and continue the blockade on Iraq's people—a blockade without justification that has become a subject of protest and denunciation by world public opinion.

The Iraqi position, which leader President Saddam Husayn declared during his recent meeting with ministers, as well as his call on the Security Council to meet its obligations toward Iraq in accordance with its resolutions, drew sharp reactions, most of which were in favor of Iraq's rights. This is especially true since the unjust blockade began its fourth year without any legal, constitutional, or humanitarian justification that the Security Council and the head of the Special Commission, Ekeus, can use to delay presenting their recommendations to the Security Council to begin its weapons monitoring program and implement clause C of Resolution No. 687.

The rift the Iraqi position created among the Security Council's permanent member states proves the legitimacy of Iraq's proposals, as well as any other step Iraq deems correct to open the door of hope for its people to get rid of this unjust blockade still imposed because of the insistence of well-known and influential sides in the UN Security Council to serve purely conspiratorial and political goals that have nothing to do with the contents of the obviously unjust UN resolutions.

Following the cease-fire that began in February 1990, as stated in Bush's announcement, Iraq tried to confront the UN Security Council with its true responsibilities to honor its resolutions and implement its obligations in order to save Iraq's people from further injustice and persecution in terms of the most important human aspects pertaining to food and medicine. But well-known sides in the Security Council, led by the United States, have been distorting the Iraqi position, reversing realities, and belittling Iraq's full cooperation with the United Nations in order to continue the blockade and the crimes committed against Iraq's people, its independence, its national sovereignty, and its free national decision making.

The general climate prevailing in UN corridors, and even inside the United States itself, is full of questions about the usefulness of and the reasons for the continued blockade of Iraq. This fact frightens the delegates of the United States, Britain, the Zionist entity, and some other regimes that are trying, through their humiliated positions and their subservience to Washington and Tel Aviv, to support these aggressive positions with money and oil.

World and official public opinions stress Iraq's right to prod the Security Council to serve its legitimate right and its people's right to lift the blockade and to reject the use of the blockade for political and diplomatic purposes governed by international sides known for their flagrant hostility to the Iraqi people.

It is obvious that the issue of lifting or maintaining the blockade has become a matter of life and death for the Iraqi people. Therefore, the Iraqi people have the right to use every way their enlightened political leadership believes to be right to confront the mysteries of the political conspiracy against them in order to lift the blockade, to reassess all the positions that have led to the continued blockade, and to create the right opportunity and take the right position and step to save Iraq's people from the injustice it is facing as a result of the damned blockade.

'Massive Marches' Held

JN1803162094 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Massive marches were held in Baghdad and the governorates today. Demonstrators shouted their absolute support for the historic leadership of His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn until final victory is achieved and the evil embargo lifted. Their chants voiced condemnation of and anger at the sanctions that are being kept in place at the urging of the United States and the Zionists. The demonstrators also shouted slogans against the conspiracies targeting great Iraq, its future generations, and its advancement, with the aim of weakening its sovereignty and national dignity.

Government Stops Fuel Supplies to Kurdistan

JN1903173694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] Following the UN Security Council's extension of the sanctions against Iraq, Baghdad has decided to stop supplying the Iraqi Kurdistan area with fuel. This was confirmed by Iraqi radio [not further identified] today. As a result of this decision, the price of one liter of gas rose from two dinars to five.

Kurdish Leader Comments on Situation

NC2003112994 Paris AFP in English 1037 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, March 2O (AFP)—Baghdad cut off fuel supplies to Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq, in a move denounced by Kurdish leaders Sunday as revenge for the UN renewing its embargo against Iraq.

Kurdish leader Massud Barzani told AFP the Iraqi blockade was causing the region "a very serious problem."

Fuel prices tripled when the stoppage went into effect Saturday, with the price of one litre rising from two dinar to six dinar. Stocks rapidly ran out, with queues forming at every petrol station.

Public transport was forced off the road by lack of fuel, and the streets were deserted.

Barzani, speaking at the headquarters of his Kurdistan Democractic Party (KDP) in Salahuddin, said Baghdad was venting its anger at Friday's UN decision by hitting the Kurds, because it was "not powerful enough to do anything against the UN."

The UN Security Council renewed Friday an oil and trade embargo imposed on Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, despite a split among council members on whether or not to publically acknowledge Iraq's acceptance of UN demands.

The split, the first since the Security Council imposed the embargo, meant the embargo was automatically renewed.

Barzani said the UN embargo was also causing Iraqi Kurdistan economic difficulties, and called for finanical aid for the area.

Northern Iraq has been under Kurdish control for the past three years, after it was set up with the assistance of the allied forces at the end of the Gulf war in February 1991.

Barzani added he was willing, if asked, to play a role in helping to solve the problem of the Kurds living in Turkey.

A solution in Turkey "must include the Kurdish people and cannot ignore them," he said

Prime Minister Reviews Ties With Turkey, Asset Recovery

JN1903161694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Mar (INA)—Iraqi Prime Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir has urged Turkey to adopt a strategic stand on Iraq in light of the fact that Turkey's interest is in cooperation with Iraq.

In an interview with AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, he said it is in the Turkish people's interest to have good relations with the Iraqi people, because their economy, one way or another, is linked with the Iraqi economy and its growth rate.

He reiterated Iraq's desire to normalize relations with Turkey. He said: We always seek good relations with Turkey. We have said this several times. He said he was confident cooperation between the two sides will create a state of stability and mutual benefit.

The prime minister urged Turkey to abandon hesitation. He said close Iraqi-Turkish relations are the main factor in Turkey's economic prosperity and stability.

He also focused on a basic point in international and regional relations, namely, the inability of any foreign force to maintain a permanent presence on another nation's territory. He said all foreign forces will inevitably leave the region. Turkey's leaders should not fear taking a bold step to meet their country's economic interests by returning to the formulas and bases of cooperation and trade exchange the two countries previously maintained. He recalled the positive results for the Turkish economy when prosperous trade cooperation prevailed between the two countries.

Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir then touched on the periodic meetings Turkey, Iran, and Syria hold to discuss the Iraqi Kurdish issue. He described them as an aggression against Iraq's sovereignty, interference in its domestic affairs, and a violation of the most important principle of international law, namely, the principle of sovereignty and respect for other countries' domestic affairs. He said Iraq's unity is an affair for its people and leadership, not for any of these countries. In the future, he said, they will regret their positions.

He criticized the three countries for their silence about the foreign military presence in the region. This presence threatens the region and harms the security and sovereignty of all the region's countries, not just Iraq. He recalled colonialist circles' attempts to use the ethnic and religious minorities' card to create problems in countries that seek freedom and independence. He reiterated that recent developments in northern Iraq were imposed by foreigners, expressing the belief that this situation is temporary and will soon end.

He said Iraqis are not prepared to relinquish any part of their national entity. He recalled developments that led to the 11 March statement that ended the Kurdish problem, as well President Saddam Husayn's meetings with the Kurdish leaders, including Mas'ud Barzani. At that time, Barzani said Saddam was courageous enough to unify Iraq and lay down a strong basis for a prosperous Iraq.

He then touched on Iraqi-Iranian relations. He said Iraq has always voiced its readiness to establish normal relations with Iran and has taken many initiatives in this regard, but the Iranian leaders say one thing and do another.

He referred to the recent negotiations held by the Iraqi and the Iranian sides in Tehran. He said the two sides focused on the main outstanding issues and agreed to hold further talks about them.

He urged Iran's leaders to consider their people's future interests by resuming normal relations with Iraq, in the interest of both sides.

Regarding Iraqi assets in some Arab countries, Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir regretted that some Arab regimes continue to hold Iraqi assets under the pretest of compliance with international resolutions, while some

Western countries have released these assets and enabled the Iraqi people to use them for humanitarian needs.

He also said direct contacts with these countries are still under way in order to release Iraq's assets.

The prime minister defined Iraq's principled position on pan-Arab issues and affairs and the Arab nation's central issues. He said Iraq has not abandoned its pan-Arab policy under the most difficult circumstances and will play a great role in Arab cooperation.

Saddam Adviser on Moves To 'Affect U.S. Interests'

JN2003122194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Mar 94 p 24

[Report by Ahmad 'Abd-al-Majid from Baghdad]

[Excerpts] Iraq is two thirds of the way down the road toward lifting the three-year old comprehensive embargo. Through patient diplomatic efforts and rational measures—which fulfilled 99 percent of the UN Security Council's demands—Iraq was able to contain the stands of three of the five permanent members of the Security Council. This step was a political achievement in Iraq's interest because it succeeded in surrounding the hard-line stands in the Security Council and in bringing states, which a few months ago were revolving in the U.S. orbit, to Iraq's side. Iraqi sources said that the split within the Security Council is a gain for the international majority and supports Iraq's rights in the face of "the idols," as stated in AL-QADISIYAH, the paper of the Iraqi Armed Forces.

The reaction in Baghdad ranged between optimism and reservation. Meanwhile, some sources believe that what took place within the Security Council was an important diplomatic gain from which Baghdad will benefit in the consultations to take place next May. Other sources, however, believe that it is too early to talk about the results now. A source at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, who asked to remain anonymous, said that Iraq's reaction will be decided after Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz returns to Baghdad. The source said that 'Aziz, who will return after two days, will brief the Iraqi leadership on what took place in the corridors of the Security Council and the possibilities that he came up with after his talks and meetings there.

These sources, however, are still leveling accusations at Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, describing him as a puppet of Washington and London. Iraqi newspapers yesterday did not devote their editorials to this subject, but rather carried news reports [as published]. This strengthens the opinion that the government's reaction has been delayed until 'Aziz returns from New York. 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin, former military spokesman and President Saddam Husayn's press secretary, told AL-DUSTUR in a telephone conversation that if the economic embargo continues Iraq will be forced to take certain measures, including noncompliance with Security Council resolutions. He added: So long as the Security Council does not abide by its resolutions, Iraq will be free to cooperate unilaterally with a number of countries and can resort to many measures that will affect U.S. interests in the region. Muhsin, however, did not reveal the nature of these methods, but said that Washington's insistence on continuing the embargo smacks of Zionist desire. This, he added, simply means that the aggression against Iraq and the imposition of the blockade were not just because of Kuwait, but were planned even before the Iraqi forces' invasion of Kuwait. Muhsin added that renewing the blockade is an attempt to exhaust Iraq's military and economic potential. [passage omitted]

An Iraqi source told AL-DUSTUR that a delegation led by the chief of the Political Desk at the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry is currently on a visit to Baghdad to hold talks on political and oil issues. The source added that the three-man delegation met the day before yesterday with experts from the Iraqi Oil Ministry.

An economic source revealed figures on the size of Iraq's commercial activities before the international embargo resolution was issued. The source said that Iraq has the potential to be the largest trade market in the region and that its imports—which were estimated at $25 billion in 1990— will increase to $40 billion when the embargo is lifted. The economic source said that the economic cycle in the region is now crippled because one of its basic links is paralyzed. The source advised Britain, in particular, to realize this fact, and asked ridiculously: Why does London prefers a 1-billion dollar market in Malaysia to a 40-billion dollar promising and strong market?

Interviewed by AL-DUSTUR in Baghdad, political analysts expressed their astonishment at the pretexts created by Washington and London to continue the economic embargo on Iraq. They said that the issue of the Kuwaiti borders is a bilateral issue that cannot be placed under anyone's tutelage. They called for leaving the issue for the future and did not rule out better circumstances in the future to reach results regarding it. Regarding the file of the Kuwaiti prisoners, whom the Kuwaiti regime claims are held in Iraq, this file cannot be closed easily three years after the Gulf war. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Paper on 'Riots' in Baghdad; New Military Corps

JN2003164194 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 13 Mar 94 pp 1, 19

[Report by Dawud al-Mani in Damascus]

[Text] According to a statement issued in Damascus by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, riots broke out between storekeepers and members of the general public at Baghdad's largest bazaar—al- Shurjah Market.

The statement blamed the disturbances on the worsening economic situation with a pack of sugar selling for 13 Iraqi dinars.

Rioting was said to have erupted during the distribution of chickens to fill quotas in the city of al-Fallujah in al-Anbar Governorate. Protestors raised placards calling for the overthrow of Saddam Husayn's regime.

Forces of the regime cordoned off the market and a number of demonstrators were taken into custody.

The statement also disclosed that the Baghdad regime is working on the formation of three military corps, whose recruits will be drawn from "the friends", and which will be incorporated into the Republican Guard.

The statement noted that in the application forms the candidates were handed, the question asking whether they wished to join the corps was worded to elicit a yes or no response. This was intended to circumvent a UN Security Council resolution banning the addition of fresh military units to the Iraqi Armed Forces. Iraqis are, however, still herded into compulsory military service, the statement notes.

The statement emphasized that special training camps, where entrants are to receive military instruction, are being prepared in Mosul, Nahrawan, and al-Kut. The exact locations are secret and off limits, save for the trainees.

AL-THAWRAH Notes 'Positive Change' on International Scene

JN2003104794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Mar (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that the split that took place within the UN Security Council, along with the council's decision to stop issuing its traditional statement, shows the extent of the positive change in the international position as a result of Iraq's firmness and adherence to its legitimate rights.

In an article today, the paper says that the overwhelming majority of the world has come to realize that the United States and Britain are involved in a dirty (?political) game that has nothing to do with UN resolutions or law. Rather, they have come to realize that this game is part of selfish interests and calculations aimed at harming Iraq and other world peoples.

AL-THAWRAH indicates that the (?Iraqi letter) to the UN Security Council clearly supported the Iraqi rights that Washington, London, and world Zionism want to deny and to [words indistinct] as a result of the imperialist aggression and the unjust blockade that has been imposed on it.

The paper says: The free will of Iraq and the international community has successfully exposed attempts to falsify facts and the meaningless [word indistinct] that the representatives of imperialism have shown at the UN Security Council.

AL-THAWRAH adds that, for the first time in three years, the UN Security Council finds itself besieged by unequivocal Iraqi facts. Therefore, Washington and London went crazy, and ordered their representatives to oppose the issuance of any resolution in the interest of Iraq. However, they failed to convince the representatives of France, China, and Russia of the tendentious U.S. and British argument for extending the blockade against Iraq.

The paper stresses that Iraq has a fair case and is an influential player in the Arab region and the world. Therefore, it is not easy to blackout the evident Iraq role [words indistinct] that want to see the truth.

The paper says that the U.S. and British administrations should consider well the changes that are taking place inside the United States and Britain, changes which indicate that many U.S. and British parties are demanding that Washington and London adopt a different policy on Iraq.

Concluding its article, the paper says that those who have legitimate rights and adhere to their rights and independent national decisionmaking, just like Iraq, must achieve a comprehensive victory over the powers of evil and exploitation.

Radio Says 'U.S. Decisions, Dictates' No Longer Endorsed

JN2003214594 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1724 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Unattributed political analysis from the "Spotlight on News" program]

[Text] What is the meaning of the serious split that occurred in the Security Council three and a half years after a blockade was imposed on Iraq; what is the meaning of the three no's that Russia, France, and the PRC brandished against U.S. and British allegations; and what is the meaning of the majority's support for Iraq's position and their insistence on praising that position?

Three days of debate by the Security Council raised many questions, and the Security Council refrained, for the first time, from issuing its traditional statement on extending the blockade. Instead, it just satisfied itself with a shy extension of the unjust embargo on Iraq.

Replies can be provided for these questions to clarify matters regarding what happened and what is expected to happen. The first reply is that the international community has begun to understand that the continuation of the blockade is unjustified, that insistence on it has become meaningless and has made the security Council a subject of accusations, and that the insistence of the United States and its British satellite is illogic because it seeks to achieve wicked goals that have nothing to do with legitimacy or international law.

The second reply is that Iraq has been using its goodwill in handling the premeditated resolutions that have bad goals and that it has met its obligations in accordance with Security Council wishes and mechanism, the latest of which is its approval of the permanent weapons monitoring. But the Security Council has not met its obligations, its position is viewed as ill-intentioned and indifferent, and it has resorted to procrastination and the take- and-demand formula without offering Iraq any of its rights. This has awaken several Security Council member states, since the unjustified extension of the blockade is not a plaything as it means a continued war of annihilation against a nation that fights, suffers, and is hurt every day.

The third reply is related to international changes that show a refusal to endorse U.S. decisions and dictates. The international community has begun to reject and criticize the U.S. Administration and its policies, and even U.S. political circles follow suit. This has encouraged many states to behave as they wish and in light of their interests and policies and not in the American way. An example of this is the Japan's rejection of the U.S. economic trusteeship, as well as Russia's firm stand on its espionage crisis with Washington.

These replies, as well as the firmness, the patience, and the steadfastness Iraq has demonstrated over the past years in its conflict with the tyrant, explain to us the reasons for the current absence of consensus on U.S. options. Therefore, the first signs of the dissolution of the anti-Iraq alliance mobilized by the United States have begun to emerge.

What took place in the Security Council means that the future is in favor of Iraq, and that the key to the solution is approaching to the gate of the blockade to open it and to end the ugliest crime in history. This is because the current situation is being shaped by the will of a growing majority opposed to the will of an isolated minority that lacks the weapon of logic. Iraq's strong will and its clear and bold demand for its rights will certainly decide the issue and will enable Iraq to have the final say in the future of the blockade. Pending that historic moment, we, the Iraqis, have to be patient and to remain highly vigilant.

Motives of 'U.S. Embargo,' 'Hostility' Analyzed

JN2003215494 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 10 Mar 94 p 7

["Sidelines" column by Sabri Hammadi: "The U.S. Embargo"]

[Text] It goes without saying that the U.S. Administration is going too far in its anti-Iraq political attitude and that this hostile stand takes many varied forms. Perhaps the most salient form is the rabid U.S. political campaign which began to escalate as the periodic UN Security Council review of the blockade imposed on Iraq drew closer. All indications are that the United States alone has continued to insist on this unjust blockade.

The first and most important fact in this regard is that Iraq has implemented all its obligations vis-a-vis Resolution 687 on the destruction of chemical, biological, nuclear weapons, and missiles. Iraq has also agreed to abide by the substance of Resolution 715 concerning future monitoring of weapon manufacturing. This means that Iraq has not left any excuse for the United States to continue the blockade.

The second fact is that the past months have witnessed many serious developments in the international and regional stands toward Iraq. There is a clear positive development in attitudes of a number of UN Security Council permanent member states—France, Russia, and China—on the issue of the blockade, in addition to stands by other Council member states. This change means among other things that the so-called international consensus against Iraq, which the U.S. Administration continues to arrogantly claim to exist, is neither existent nor possible to realize, that only the Clinton administration, as we have said, is insisting on continuing the embargo imposed on Iraq despite the eroding justifications and causes of this embargo.

Moreover, this hostile and indiscriminate U.S. hostility to Iraq is paralleled by an international awareness, which is deepening and expanding every day, that Iraq carried out all the measures and abided by all the obligations imposed on it by the UN Security Council resolutions despite their injustice and unfairness, and that it is time to deal objectively and fairly with the blockade and implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, which clearly links the implementation of its provisions with lifting the blockade on Iraq.

The question that springs to the mind is: What is behind this immoral and inhuman U.S. attitude toward Iraq? Why does the U.S. Administration indulge in its arrogance and its hostile and unbridled policy against Iraq? What will the United States reap from this war of starvation and poverty which it is launching against Iraq?

In my humble opinion, the current U.S. foreign policy represents the ugliest form of arrogance, tyranny, and brute force. It may be said that the U.S. arrogance has reached its peak these days despite the appearance of international evidence and factors which indicate that the entire international community, including states that are allied to the United States, has started to take notice of this arrogance and its dangers. These states have started to grumble and even to move in one form or another against this high-handed and tyrannical U.S. policy. Differences have cropped up between the United States and its Western allies and Japan.

The Zionist lobby is tightening its grip on the Clinton administration in a way unparalleled in previous administrations. Reports from the United States speak of the Zionist lobby's increasing influence on U.S. decision-making, especially in foreign affairs. It seems that the Clinton administration has definitively linked the preservation of U.S. interests in Arab region with the preservation of Zionist entity's strategic supremacy over the

Arab nation. Can the Zionist lobby forget that among the Arab countries only Iraq was capable of undermining the foundations of the Zionist security theory and to come close to realizing parity with "Israel?"

It can be argued that this hostile and conspiratorial attitude toward Iraq—this wrong U.S. attitude against Iraq in particular and against all states that differ with U.S. policy and opinion in general—is due to the Clinton administration's inability to understand the Iraqi question and the conditions and policy of Iraq, as well as the conditions of the region in general, and the administration's failure to understand the political, social, and historical facts to enable it to take the right stand toward Iraq. This U.S. political inability is due to ignorance and inexperience, as well as the U.S. decisionmakers' lack of coherence, clarity, and comprehensive understanding of international political problems.

The United States realizes that its aggression against Iraq has failed, that it did not succeed in realizing the basic targets it had sought from this aggression. This feeling of failure, impotency, and bitterness has prompted the United States to continue its aggression and blockade on Iraq and to continue its arrogance and feverish attempts to harm the Iraqi people and encroach on their will and national dignity.

In light of all these facts and motives, it can be said that the blockade imposed on our people and country for almost four years will become—and it could already be—a U.S. blockade which Iraq rejects ad strongly resist. No doubt, all the fair-minded people and revolutionaries will take Iraq's side against this U.S. blockade.

Rabin on Peace Negotiations, Talk With 'Arafat

TA1903193894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik "in Jerusalem, a short while ago"—recorded]

[Text] [Rabin] I expect the resumption of the negotiations with Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon as soon as April, after the Passover and Independence Day holidays. I very much hope that this time, they will be held on a much more businesslike basis than in the past.

[Sukenik] Last night you spoke to 'Arafat on the phone. Other than discussing the UN Security Council resolution, did you make any promises to him that made him push to move forward?

[Rabin] I made no specific offers, except for stressing that the Palestinians as well as ourselves should in no way grant awards to loathsome murderers on both sides. They should not give any prizes to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] or the Islamic Jihad, and we will not give any awards to the supporters of the loathsome murderer who committed the abhorrent crime in the Cave of the Patriarchs.

[Sukenik] Is the issue of evacuating settlers from Hebron still off the agenda?

[Rabin] I made no commitment, except for the pledge to stand by our responsibility—in addition to the struggle against the Palestinian extremist terrorism which seeks to murder Israelis and the peace—to provide the Palestinians with protection against loathsome murderers the likes of that man, who does not deserve to be called a human being, who committed the murder in the Cave of the Patriarchs.

Rabin Briefs Cabinet on Plans for Talks' Resumption

TA2003125794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] At today's cabinet session, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin briefed the ministers on the steps being taken prior to the resumption of the peace talks. Minister Shim'on Shetrit complained that Israel's position on the status of Jerusalem is unclear. Mr. Rabin replied that Jerusalem is not an issue for negotiations at this time, adding that Israel has made no concessions whatsoever on this matter. Rabin noted that he had underestimated the extent of the widespread support among settler circles for the Hebron massacre. The prime minister said that the deliberations of the Shamgar Commission, which is investigating the Hebron massacre, undermine the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] credibility in the eyes of the public.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the cabinet also discussed the continuation of the closure on the territories. One of the possibilities discussed was extending the closure on the territories until after the holidays. Police Minister Moshe Shahal supports this proposal.

Peres: Bilateral Could Resume in Early Apr

TA2103083894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Report on an interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Eyal Eisenstein on 20 March; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Eisenstein] Last night, the Israeli delegation began negotiations with senior PLO echelons in Tunis in anticipation of the resumption of the peace talks. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told us yesterday that the obstacles to peace created by the Hebron massacre are not the last ones we will have to overcome. At the same time, Peres expects the negotiations to resume soon:

[Peres] I believe that official talks with the four parties will resume in Washington in early April.

[Eisenstein] Peres said that the proposals conveyed by the Israeli delegation to Tunis are the proposals of the Norwegian representatives, with which the PLO is basically familiar. Peres noted that the proposal to deploy Palestinian policemen in Hebron is also on the agenda:

[Peres] We still have to work out this proposal. It is not an exact repetition of the previous situation. We want something that will also take into consideration the sensitivities and concerns of the local residents. This force must be under Israeli authority, however, because it is inconceivable to have two military authorities in the same city.

[Eisenstein] Regarding Peres' scheduled meeting with 'Arafat in Paris on 24 March, the foreign minister said the issue has not been finalized.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 21 March on page A1 carries a report by 'Aqiva Eldar on Peres' appearance before Labor activists in Tel Aviv on 20 March, adding the following: "Peres stated that Israel will not compromise on Jerusalem, which will remain under Israeli sovereignty and is a 'closed case' from the political point of view but remains open in terms of the religious aspects."

[Writing on page 2 of Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 21 March, Nehama Dowek reports on Peres' remarks on the same occasion. She quotes Peres as saying: "We will not admit to not having the right to live in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el. We have that right, but the question is what sense is there in exercising it." Peres added: "Goldstein's act raises questions about the possibility of coexistence between settlers and Arabs. The settlement of 400 Jews among 120,000 Arabs in Hebron illustrates the magnitude of this problem. We must decide what is the right solution. The settlement map must be a purely Israeli decision rather than the result of pressure created by the negotiations."]

Peres on State of Relations With Palestinians

TA1803193294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Shlomo Ganor—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles on 18 March in Peres' office; translated from the Hebrew]

[Text] [Ganor] Was your meeting with 'Arafat on 20 March finalized?

[Peres] Not yet. There are two moves here; the UN Security Council vote, which was to take place later this evening, but was postponed by four hours and a dialogue, a debate, taking place between the United States and others regarding the nature of the resolution. At the same time, there is a move for the resumption of the talks with the PLO on the Gaza-and-Jericho agreement and on the conclusions that have to be drawn from the events in Hebron.

[Ganor] What about your meeting?

[Peres] My meeting comes in between these two moves. It is part of the attempt to design a complete move.

[Ganor] Can we assume it will take place?

[Peres] I cannot tell you before it is scheduled. I believe that the talks, the dialogue, will eventually resume.

[Ganor] What will be in the center of your meeting with 'Arafat, when it takes place?

[Peres] On the one hand there is the desire to speed up the process of completing the negotiations on the Gaza-and-Jericho agreement, and implementing it. We want this done as fast as possible. We would also like to see this through in a relatively short time. The other thing will be the need to see what can be done about Hebron to calm spirits and create a better atmosphere. It should be remembered that 'Arafat's source of power and authority is the entire Palestinian population in Judaea and Samaria, and not just in Jericho and the Gaza Strip. There is no doubt that the Hebron incident put him in an almost intolerable situation. He came under very harsh criticism in the territories. In the Palestinian camp, he is the only partner we have today with which we can talk peace.

[Ganor] What are the steps Israel wants to take to bolster 'Arafat's standing?

[Peres] It is not only a question of bolstering 'Arafat's standing. We need to dissolve the tremendous tension which was created in the territories, and spread as an angry wave through the Muslim and Arab world. We should remember that the reactions to the incident are no less severe than the incident itself.

[Ganor] What are the steps Israel wants to take to help him?

[Peres] I will not detail the steps. I will tell you, however, that we want the following points perfectly clear: First, we bear the responsibility for the security of all the residents, including the Arabs. They are nobody's prey. Second, we wish to hold a dialogue with the local residents about the appropriate steps that should be taken which will make them feel they are secure and that their needs are being considered. Third, all the means that are needed to create a new security situation, as recommended by our defense establishment, will be implemented. These are the three basic assumptions, more or less.

[Ganor] What is your personal stand regarding moving the Jewish residents of Hebron into a single site?

[Peres] My view—what I can say outside the cabinet session and before a session is held—is the following: First, any decision regarding sites or settlements throughout the territories should be made by Israel alone. It cannot be made as a result of external pressure or as part of negotiations with the PLO. This is strictly an Israeli decision. Israel, on its part, must be reasonable. It has to decide what is needed, what is logical, what is the price—and I do not only speak of money. We are very thinly spread in very many places, and believe me that I fear for what might happen to one man or one woman here and there. Not everything can be provided for with security measures. The conclusions have to be drawn. Putting them on a map, in practical terms, will have to be done in the cabinet session. It is clear to me that the way we are spread in Hebron is intolerable. We have five sites scattered throughout the city in which some 400 Jews live among 120,000 Arab residents who today feel a tremendous need to protest. I fear for the security of each and everyone of them, and I am not just saying this.

[Ganor] What is your stand regarding the evacuation of Jews from Tall al-Rumaytha?

[Peres] I am not sure that the Declaration of Principles [DOP] covers the issue of Tall al-Rumaytha. The DOP speaks of settlements, not of sites which are not settlements, neighborhoods, or suburbs. It was established in between governments, when one government was leaving and another was not yet set up. Hence, the government will have to discuss the issue. I will not say what I think here, before a cabinet session is held. I will say, however, that Tall al-Rumaytha—just as any other place—cannot be an issue for negotiations with the Palestinians. It should be an Israeli Government decision, made by us alone.

[Ganor] Does this also apply to carrying guns in areas densely populated by Arabs?

[Peres] Certainly. That is, a distinction should be made between carrying arms for self defense and wielding arms for the sake of revenge—which we will not allow. There is a difference between carrying weapons while on the roads or at work and carrying arms when you and suddenly go smashing windows or torch cars. That is: arms only for self defense, not for provocation.

[Ganor] How long will it take to implement the Gaza-and-Jericho First plan?

[Peres] Several weeks. Look, when you ask how long will it take to get there, you must first ask when do we start walking. The problem now is that we are standing still, hence there is no point in discussing the time of arrival at the destination. I believe that the fundamental change in the Palestinian public opinion will take place when they see a change in their reality.

The Palestinian people had two prominent leaders in this century: The Jerusalem Mufti and Yasir 'Arafat. 'Arafat has been the head of the PLO and the most important Palestinian representative for the past 28 years. The Mufti was a leader for 40 years. He was the most popular leader. He kept saying no, no, no, and brought disaster after disaster on the Palestinian nation. He prevented them from establishing an Arab state on most of the territory of Eretz Yisra'el. He is the only one to blame for this. He caused the problem of refugees, and did not allow anyone to solve it. He caused the unification of Judaea and Samaria with Jordan, which no one later knew how to get rid of. He lived in negation, and this is how he died. He demanded everything only to end up with nothing, and brought nothing but sorrow and loss of life to his nation.

At first, 'Arafat also started off this way. At a certain point he changed his way, and said: Let us opt for a concrete thing, not something theoretical. If the negotiations succeed, 'Arafat will be the first Palestinian leader in history who will receive, for the Palestinians, a territory, a budget, responsibility, an address, a flag—since the Palestinians have never had neither a state nor an autonomy. 'Arafat told me: Do you want to make me a mayor of one town? I told him: Listen Sir, when Israel was established, there were only 650,000 Jews here. You start off with 1 million Palestinians. This is a great thing.

[Ganor] Will Israel help Yasir 'Arafat?

[Peres] The State of Israel will help its Palestinian neighbor. We have a vested interest in seeing them succeed. We do not want our neighbors to live in poverty, fear, or bitterness. This would be a terrible life. Furthermore, this will spill over to our side as well as to their side. We can change relations between neighbors. We have no desire to change our neighbors, their opinions, location, or nationality. We are making a supreme effort to improve or change the relations between the Arab and the Jewish nations.

Peres Sees Positive Change in U.S. Jerusalem Stance

TA1903095994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0805 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Eytan Almog; recorded on 19 March]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Almog] Mr. Peres, in last night's vote in the UN Security Council we still enjoyed U.S. support regarding Jerusalem's status as the united capital of Israel which is under complete Israeli sovereignty. Is the word still appropriately placed in the above sentence?

[Peres] I do not want to play down the UNSC resolution. There is a change, however, in the U.S. position—and I think it is a change somewhat for the better. To date the United States on two occasions voted in favor of including Jerusalem in the definition of the occupied territories. This time it abstained, and the reason for this is that had it voted against, it would have in fact vetoed the entire resolution and the Security Council would have been left without any resolution. One of the reasons which caused the United States to abstain is that the Declaration of Principles does not even mention Jerusalem. The present U.S. Administration has also taken upon itself severe restrictions regarding Jerusalem. The solution which the United States thought most appropriate in the present case was not to vote in favor—as in the past—but rather to abstain.

Government Considering Accelerating Withdrawal

TA2003194794 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] It was learned tonight that Israel is prepared to discuss a withdrawal from the Gaza Strip even before the negotiations on that issue are completed. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told today's cabinet meeting that 'Arafat has in fact agreed to resume the talks even though he has not admitted it publicly. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen gives us the political picture:

[Begin recording] [Rosen] I was surprised, Yitzhaq Rabin said, I did not realize how widespread the support for Barukh Goldstein's abhorrent act is among the settlers. The government did not make any new decisions today although such decisions are due to be made. Yesterday, we reported on the Norwegian compromise paper, which the foreign minister confirmed today. Mr. Peres said Israel is ready to agree to a Palestinian police force being deployed in Hebron. A senior political source said that the powers of the Palestinian police force will be wider than they had prior to the intifadah. A number of ministers, including Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am, again raised the demand for a full or partial evacuation of Jews from Hebron. Police Minister Moshe Shahal expressed support for such a move.

[Shahal] It is easier to defend the Jewish population if it is concentrated together.

[Rosen] Inside the cabinet room, this demand led to a confrontation between ministers.

[Environment Minister Yosi Sarid] The government will soon have to make very important decisions on the settlers' deployment inside Hebron, which is very dangerous and very problematic.

[Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish] I fear a situation where some of the ministers, especially the Meretz ministers, raise new proposals which will persuade 'Arafat to continue to delay.

[Rosen] Israel is nevertheless going to meet the PLO half way. What is on the agenda now is speeding up the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. The area is already being evacuated. On the prime minister's desk is a proposal, which Rabin has not ruled out, that the Gaza-Jericho withdrawal take place concurrently with the negotiations and prior to the completion of the talks in order to meet 'Arafat's demand to show signs of withdrawal on 13 April.

[Peres] Israel is ready to speed up the negotiations and the implementation of the agreement.

[Rosen] The ongoing curfew and the closure disturb the ministers. Police Minister Shahal suggested continuing the closure until after Independence Day but urged compensating the residents.

[Shahal] The amount must be reasonable. I suggest between 15 and 20 million shekels a month.

[Rosen] The government forecasts tough talks in Tunis. Although the foreign minister told the cabinet today that 'Arafat has in fact already decided to return to the talks, he just has not said so publicly. [end recording]

Efforts To Resume Talks With PLO Reported

TA1803195894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1830 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Political correspondent Gadi Sukenik studio report]

[Excerpts] Diplomatic contacts between Israel, Tunis, the United States, and Egypt continue at this hour in an attempt to find a way for an immediate resumption of the negotiations between Israel and the PLO. Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik has the details:

The contacts go on all the time with the participation of the Americans, the Egyptians, Israel, the PLO, as well as the Russians and the Norwegians. The United States has threatened 'Arafat that if he does not return immediately to the peace talks, it would veto the condemnation of the Hebron massacre by the UN Security Council. Strange as it may seem, Israel fears such a U.S. veto. 'Arafat might, so they think in Israel, dig in his heels even deeper, and the entire peace process will become even more of a mess.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa spoke on the phone today with Shim'on Peres and suggested that a preparatory meeting be held in Cairo between lower level Israeli and PLO representatives. As we have already heard, Rabin held a long conversation with 'Arafat. Peres and Rabin met twice within 24 hours. This evening, Peres also held a meeting with Faysal al-Husayni.

Everything is being done with the feeling that the situation is grave; that 'Arafat is in distress as hundreds of thousands of Palestinians are under curfew or closure. Israel still demands that 'Arafat return to the negotiating table unconditionally, and only hints at a willingness to meet him part of the way on several issues. At the same time, Rabin is against evacuating the Jewish settlers from Hebron at this time, despite the fact that he had called them a time bomb and their presence there stupidity. [passage omitted]

Peres stand is clear. Hence it can be gathered that, from now on, every grave incident in Hebron—caused by either Arabs or Jews—will be followed by an evacuation from or moving out of settlers in the city. The efforts to get Peres and 'Arafat to meet as soon as possible will continue tomorrow in an attempt to break the ice.

Topics of Discussion in Tunis Detailed

NC2003083494 Paris AFP in English 0816 GMT 20 Mar 94

[By Patrick Anidjar]

[Text] Jerusalem, March 20 (AFP)—Israeli officials were set to hold talks with the PLO in Tunis Sunday [20 March] on protection for Palestinians and ways to restart the autonomy talks stalled by the Hebron massacre, the government said.

Sources close to the foreign ministry said the Tunis meeting could lead to a meeting Thursday in Paris between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasir 'Arafat.

A delegation led by chief negotiator General Amnon Shahaq will discuss the deployment in Hebron of Palestinian police under Israeli authority and an international presence there, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's office said.

The four-man team, was to leave for PLO headquarters after the weekly cabinet meeting, to discuss how to restart talks on Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and Jericho, suspended since the February 25 massacre.

Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, who is one of the delegates, said on radio that Israel was fully responsible for the "safety of Palestinians" in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"There is a demand to deploy an international force as stipulated in the (September) Declaration of Principles and we hope to put it into practice," Savir said.

"These two points can serve as a good basis for satisfying both parties and make progress toward peace."

Israeli state radio said the government would accept a temporary international presence in the West Bank town of Hebron.

Rabin said Saturday he hoped negotiations with the Palestinians as well as with Syria, Lebanon and Jordan could resume after Passover in early April and Israeli Independence day on April 14.

The other members of the Israeli delegation are Rabin's political advisor Jacques Neria and the foreign ministry's legal advisor Yo'el Singer.

The PLO in Tunis Saturday welcomed Friday's UN resolution on the Hebron massacre as a basis for protecting Palestinians and restarting the negotiations to launch self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

"UN Security Resolution 904 is a solid basis for immediately starting the necessary measures to protect Palestinians in the territories and for assuring the restart and success of the negotiations," it said in a statement.

Besides meeting the Israeli delegation, the PLO leadership will also consult in the next two days with senior envoys from the United States and Russia, the sponsors of the Middle East peace talks.

The meetings will focus on "practical measures" to apply Friday's resolution calling for a temporary international or foreign presence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, a PLO official said.

A decision on whether to resume autonomy negotiations will be taken later based on talks involving "all parties, particularly Israel," he said.

By calling for an armed international observation force to protect Palestinians in the occupied territories, the PLO has been asking for more than Israel is willing to give.

Foreign Ministry Reacts to UN Hebron Resolution

TA1903052194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem issued the following statement in response to the UN Security Council resolution: Israel believes that the best way to promote peace and security between Israelis and Palestinians is by resuming and accelerating negotiations on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles [DOP] on Gaza and Jericho. In regard to the Security Council resolution, Israel hopes it will pave the way for the resumption of these talks. Israel was first to condemn the horrendous massacre in Hebron and will continue to take decisive action against extremists and dangerous elements. Israel will encourage any measures to restore stability in the territories—as far as they are in conformity with the DOP—and do its utmost to carry out its responsibility for the security of all Arabs and Israelis in the territories. Finally, Israel's position on Jerusalem is well known: Jerusalem is and will be the united capital of Israel. Any reference to it as part of the territories is unacceptable.

Mayor Disappointed by U.S. Vote on UN Resolution

TA2003172294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert says the U.S. vote on the UN resolution condemning the Hebron massacre has raised false expectations among Palestinians regarding the future of Jerusalem, and will create obstacles to the peace process.

In a letter to President Bill Clinton, Olmert said he was disappointed that the U.S. did not veto the Security Council resolution, which contains references to East Jerusalem as part of the occupied territories. The United States voted in support of the resolution, but abstained on citations referring to the status of Jerusalem.

Likud Applies for Urgent Knesset Debate

TA2003092194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] The Likud Knesset faction has requested an urgent plenum debate, during the Pesah recess, in order to discuss what it described as the government's far-reaching concessions, which endanger the status of Jerusalem and disregard the security needs of the Jewish settlement in Hebron.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Knesset Member David Mena' has handed the Knesset speaker a list with the 30 signatures required in order to convene the plenum during the recess.

The NRP [National Religious Party] faction has announced that in reaction to Prime Minister Rabin's proposals, it will hold its next meeting tomorrow in Hebron.

Special Knesset To Meet 23 Mar

TA2103054294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] The Knesset will meet in special session on Wednesday [23 March] to discuss issues raised by the opposition Likud faction. Yesterday the Likud demanded an urgent Knesset debate in the recess to discuss what it called the government's far-reaching concessions. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says it is possible that there will be discussions on unrelated issues brought up by other parties.

Settlers, Policemen Testify Before Commission

TA2003182594

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1130 and at 1600 GMT on 20 March report on today's morning and afternoon sessions of the commission of inquiry into the Hebron massacre.

In the morning, the commission heard testimony from settlers. One settler, who was praying in the Cave of the Patriarchs at the time of the massacre, "ruled out the chance that Barukh Goldstein had an accomplice."

Dani Gur-Arye reports: "The settlers who came in contact with Barukh Goldstein the morning of the massacre described nothing out of the ordinary in his behavior. Moti Ungar, the security guard at Qiryat Arba' who drove Goldstein to the cave that Friday morning, said he was calm and lucid like on any other day. Ungar said the two men discussed trivial things, such as the medical equipment on the ambulance at Qiryat Arba'. He said Goldstein was carrying an Israeli-made Glilon rifle and several cartridges. Just before leaving the jeep, Goldstein handed Ungar his car keys, asking that they be delivered to his wife.

"Another settler, Ilan Tur, ran into Goldstein inside the Cave of the Patriarchs. Tur said: Goldstein asked me why the door separating the two halls in the cave were closed. I explained that Muslims were praying in one hall to mark Ramadan, while Jews were praying in another hall. He, obviously annoyed, said the Jews are entitled to pray on Purim. Tur said Goldstein had a gun and an automatic weapon, probably a Glilon. He said he later heard shots fired from what sounded like one weapon. He concludes from this that only one gunman was involved in the massacre."

In the afternoon session, the commission heard border policemen who were supposed to be guarding at the Cave of the Patriarchs at the time of the event, and "all said there were clear orders not to fire at Jewish settlers under any circumstances."

Mark Weiss reports: "All the border policemen testifying before the commission of inquiry said they had received the same orders concerning open-fire regulations against settlers. Army orders were clear-cut: Not to shoot at a settler under any circumstances. They were to wait until the settler had stopped shooting before approaching him. The judges challenged the border policemen repeatedly over the logic of such an order, but the answers were always the same: These were the orders, and we didn't question them.

"Three border policemen who were supposed to be guarding at the Cave of the Patriarchs failed to arrive on time. The border policemen admitted there were arguments over who should guard and problems with the names written on the guard list. It took at least 20 critical minutes to locate three people to guard. Most of those testifying claimed that some of the border policemen on the list were not even on the base at the time.

"By the time the guards eventually reached the cave, the massacre had already taken place. Barukh Azaza, the Ethiopian driver who drove the border policemen to the cave, denied under questioning that he had fired any shots despite testimony from colleagues that he had fired into the air."

Kakh Leader Reportedly To Surrender

TA2003084894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Barukh Marzel has announced that he will turn himself in through the mediation of several Knesset members [MK's]. This is because, among other reasons, he fears that the authorities will use firearms during his arrest. In a letter sent to his wife, Marzel asserted that he is unarmed and has no intention of resisting arrest.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that Marzel, one of the leaders of the Kakh movement, has been in hiding from the police for several weeks.

U.S. Jewish Lobby Accused of Manipulation

TA2103121094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Mar 94 p B1

[Commentary by Washington correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar: "Jewish Chutzpah"]

[Text] Among the congressmen who signed the petition to President Clinton on the issue of Jerusalem were several politicians regarded by Jewish and Israeli lobbyists as lost cases, almost anti-Semites. On the face of it, collecting the signatures of 82 congressmen for the sake of Jerusalem would seem to be a heart-warming achievement for Israel and its friends in America. In fact, it was a cheeky action on the part of Jewish functionaries, an unprecedented deed in relations between the sovereign State of Israel and the Jewry of the diaspora, perhaps even between any sovereign state and an ethnic minority that bears no responsibility for the consequences of its deeds and misdeeds.

Only a short distance separated their action from a veto of the UN Security Council [UNSC] resolution, which might have turned into a veto of the peace process. This event should shake the Israeli Government out of its complacency regarding the compromises waiting down the road. As long as the argument is over Israel's security—and the subsequent debate about the contribution of the settlements—the mainstream of the U.S. Jewish community avoids wars to the last drop of Israeli blood. Only a marginal minority challenged the Oslo agreement and spoke against concessions on the Golan Heights in exchange for peace with Syria.

Israel's legal government shoved the handshake with the unshaven and kaffiyeh-clad Arab down their throat. It was Yitzhaq Rabin, the Six-Day War general, and not the left-wing Yosi Beilin who presented them with the fait accompli that the dimensions of Greater Israel will not be so great when peace comes. Barukh Goldstein, the doctor from Brooklyn, embarrassed them and set the ground under the settlements on fire. The battle over Jerusalem on the eve of the UNSC resolution put the color back in their cheeks.

Never before has a group of Jews so insolently exploited its political clout to thwart a diplomatic compromise reached by Israeli and U.S. Government leaders. They played the role of a distinct opposition to Israel's legal government by manipulating a political system that has absolutely nothing to do with Israel's political or security interests. Most of the congressmen who signed the petitions took the name of Jerusalem in vain, just to please their Jewish constituents and tycoons. Others added their signature yesterday to be able to ask Connie Mack or Alfonse D'Amato tomorrow to endorse the initiative against a tobacco tax which threatens to ruin the livelihood of cigarette manufacturers in their constituencies.

As long as the argument was conducted in coordination with the Israeli Government, the latter felt at peace with the fact that the Jews and the U.S. Congress presented clear limits to the administration with regard to Jerusalem. It could do no harm to show the Americans that when it comes to concessions on Jerusalem, Israel demands a special price. However, the Jewish warriors did not make do with an explicit commitment from the U.S. President, the vice president, and the secretary of state that the refusal to veto the UNSC resolution does not attest to an erosion in the administration's position vis-a-vis Jerusalem. The worst of the lot, led by Washingtonian pressure groups that did not digest the recognition of the PLO, seized on the issue of Jerusalem. They took advantage of a Jewish apparatus which had been founded by and for Israel to undermine a policy they opposed.

As far as they were concerned, the chance of a veto that would thwart the efforts to heal the wounds of the Hebron massacre was an opportunity to save Israel from continuing to make concessions to the Arabs. According to them, Jerusalem is not just the capital of Israel but "the capital of the Jewish people." In a few days, as they do on Passover every year, they will declaim "Next Year in Jerusalem" and proceed to check how the construction of their villas in Beverly Hills and on Long Island is getting along.

Seeing that this is not the first and probably not the last time that Jerusalem becomes a topic on the agenda of the peace process and gets the adrenalin of American Jews racing, we would seem to have no other choice but tell them in no uncertain terms: Jerusalem is the spiritual and religious capital of the Jewish people. Jerusalem is the political capital of the citizens of the State of Israel, just like Tel Aviv is their financial capital and Washington is the sole capital of the citizens of the United States, including the Jews. As long as the Israeli Government does not propose to hand over the Western Wall to the Muslim Waqf and to ban Jews from visiting the tombs of their ancestors on the Mount of Olives, the right of Jews to meddle in Israel's affairs is identical to their right to interfere in the negotiations about the size of the Palestinian police force in Gaza.

A capital is first and foremost the manifestation of a state's sovereignty. There is no clearer sign of weakness than to permit the citizens of a foreign country—be they Jews, Christians, or Muslims—to dictate to an elected government a policy concerning its capital. It is a pity that in his appearance at the AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee] convention, the prime minister chose to voice the same old tunes they so much like to hear about his struggle for a united eternal city instead of telling them that Jerusalem is far too important to be a pawn in the hands of wheeler-dealers in the diaspora. The Jews of America usually begin fund-raising banquets by singing the U.S. and Israeli anthems. For those who make do with donating money to Israel, the words "being a free people in our land, the land of Zion and Jerusalem" are nothing more than lip service.

King Receives Call From President Clinton

JN1803212194 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today received a telephone call from U.S. President Bill Clinton.

During the telephone conversation, the two leaders exchanged views on various regional and international issues, foremost among which are the peace process and the latest developments in this process. The important role played by Jordan to safeguard regional security and stability, as well as Jordan's basic role in the peace process were underscored.

King, Others React to Security Council Resolution

King Wants Explanation for U.S. Vote

JN2003180094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Randah Habib report from Amman]

[Text] The Jordanian monarch King Husayn believes that it was a mistake to force the Jerusalem issue into a draft UN Security Council [UNSC] resolution on the Hebron massacre, something which prompted the United States to abstain when the paragraph pertaining to Jerusalem was put to the vote. He said that this was caused by the lack of inter-Arab coordination. He also asked Washington to explain its vote at the UNSC.

In an exclusive interview with King Husayn, the Hashemite monarch criticized the way the draft resolution was handled. He indicated that it was possible to avoid any mention of Jerusalem, and to only invoke the Geneva Convention to address the issue of protecting the Palestinians in the territories occupied since 1967.

The Jordanian monarch added: Had this scenario been pursued, we might have come up with an outcome that is better than the current one, which is marked by Washington's abstention. This is because this abstention might be interpreted as a change in its position toward Arab claims to Jerusalem.

Having expressed his worries about the fragmented, uncomfortable, and unsatisfactory Arab state of affairs, the Hashemite monarch wondered: Was it necessary to force the Jerusalem issue into this draft resolution, given the fact that there were chances for a U.S. veto or abstention?

The Hashemite monarch added: We must receive assurances that the U.S. policy toward Jerusalem has remained unchanged. The U.S. policy on settlements changed because it first deemed them illegal. Later, it deemed them an obstacle to peace.

King Husayn went on to say: The only explanation I have for this situation is that it is the outcome of the lack of coordination in critical, sensitive, and difficult circumstances. He noted that the calls for coordination only surface to ensure a sort of cover for some when they need it.

King Links Lack of Coordination, U.S. Vote

JN2003194094 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has blamed the absence of Arab coordination for the U.S. abstention on the Jerusalem item vote that figured in the UN Security Council Resolution 904 on the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. His majesty also faulted the Arab handling of the issue and Arab approaches to the draft resolution and the Hebron tragedy. His majesty indicated that Jerusalem need not have figured in the resolution. Instead a reference might have been made to the Geneva Convention, which stipulates protection for the Palestinians under occupation.

In an interviewed with the French news agency today, his majesty said: We may be better off as a result of the resolution and the United States abstention, which one may interpret as a shift in Washinton's position on Arab demands and claims on Jerusalem. [sentence as heard] His Majesty King Husayn wondered whether or not this signals a change. He indicated that he will call on the United States to spell out its stand, since one cannot say for sure that there has been a change in the U.S. position. We need to receive assurance that the U.S. policy on Jerusalem has not changed as happened in the past when Washington viewed the settlements as being illegal to begin with and later as an obstacle in the path of the peace process.

His majesty warned of the detrimental implication of the lack of Arab coordination for Arab interests, particularly on delicate issues and in hard times. He majesty indicated that the Arabs have not been able to work out a serious position on a comprehensive, just, and lasting settlement acceptable to future generations. He said that as things stand now, there is no room for optimism because Israel presents a solid, single front and we are split into several fronts.

His Majesty King Husayn said: We were surprised by the wording of the Security Council resolution that was the outcome of contacts involving the Palestinians, the Americans, and other parties, not including ourselves. His majesty said he tried to do the impossible at the eleventh hour before the resolution was passed by contacting a number of Arab leaders to achieve a semblance of Arab coordination. The aim, his majesty explained, was to minimize the chances of a veto or an abstention, particularly by the United States. As an occupying power, Israel, his majety said, is responsible for a string of crimes, including the arson attack at al-Aqsa Mosque in 1969, violations of Christian holy places, and the latest al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. His majesty asked whether Israel has done its duty in the way of protection for the sacred places.

His majesty said he will travel to the sultanate of Oman tomorrow and from there proceed to visit Qatar for consultations and coordination with their leaders.

King on 'Mistake' To Include Jerusalem

NC2003170894 Paris AFP in English 1647 GMT 20 Mar 94

[By Randa Habib]

[Text] Amman, March 20 (AFP)—King Husayn of Jordan said Sunday [20 March] it was a "mistake" to include references to Jerusalem in the UN Security Council resolution condemning the Hebron massacre.

In an interview with AFP, the king attributed the "mistake" to "a total lack of coordination" between Arab countries.

"It would have been better not to have mentioned Jerusalem, in order to avoid the United States abstaining and the need henceforth to ask Washington for guarantees on its position regarding the holy city."

The Security Council finally adopted Friday a resolution condemning the massacre and allowing for international protection for the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories.

In an unusual paragraph-by-paragraph vote, the United States abstained on two clauses—one with a reference to occupied Palestinian territory and a second describing Jerusalem as part of the occupied territories.

King Husayn asked: "Was it really necessary to include Jerusalem in this resolution when there was a strong chance that the United States would use their vote to veto it, or abstain from voting?"

He said it would have been better to have evoked the Geneva convention on protection for Palestinians in all the territories occupied since the 1967 Middle East war.

"That would have put the Arabs in a better position," King Husayn said.

He was also "surprised" that a draft resolution had been drawn up between the Palestinians, Americans and other parties "following a dialogue in which Jordan did not participate."

The king said that only hours before the vote was taken he tried to coordinate the Arab position, making telephone calls to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and King Hassan of Morocco.

King Husayn said he had contacted Washington for confirmation that its policy on Jerusalem remained unchanged and "will not suffer the same fate as that (policy) on settlements, which the United States initially regarded as illegal but later described as simply an obstacle on the path to peace."

East Jerusalem was occupied by Israel in 1967, while it was under Jordanian sovereignty, and later annexed. The city is considered holy to Jews, Christians and Moslems, and the Moslem holy sites are looked after by the Waqf organisation, which is run by the Jordanian religious affairs ministry.

House Briefed on Resolution

JN2103085394 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Mar 94 pp 1, 19

[Report by 'Isa al-Shubul]

[Excerpt] The House of Representatives met yesterday evening and listened to a government statement by Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, the minister of state for foreign affairs, on UN Security Council Resolution No. 904 concerning the settlers' recent massacre in the Hebron al-Ibrahimi Mosque and on relevant Jordanian moves by His Majesty King Husayn and the government. The following is the text of the statement:

The Hebron massacre in the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque in the blessed month of Ramadan was a violent shock as it resulted in the shedding of the blood of innocent worshipers. The massacre is a reminder of the danger to which the Palestinian people are exposed day and night at the hands of the armed settlers and soldiers. The importance of this serious incident stems not from the number of people who were killed or wounded en masse—people are martyred or wounded on the Palestinian soil everyday—but from the cold-blooded manner in which this tragic crime was committed and from the identity of this criminal, who perpetrated it without any of the pretexts or excuses usually advanced by Israel such as self-defense or pursuit of those who are allegedly disturbing security.

This serious incident drew angry reactions around the world and stirred the feelings of those who detest injustice and tyranny. It has been proven that arming the settlers on the pretext of a threat posed by the Palestinian citizens is merely a false allegation; it is the defenseless Palestinian people who need security and protection. This painful incident has also refuted the possibility of so-called coexistence between the Jewish settlers and the Palestinian people on the Palestinian territory under the settlers' feeling of ethnic superiority. The horrible massacre has proven that the Israeli settlements are an obstacle to a just and comprehensive peace.

His majesty the king, his government, and all his Jordanian people immediately dealt with all political, legal, and human aspects of this issue on all levels. Jordan undertook serious political activity to obtain a Security Council resolution that rises to the level of this event. We worked continuously within the United Nations through contacts with the Security Council members, the Arab group, and Islamic states. During the decisive hours prior to voting on the resolution, his majesty the king pursued contacts with his brothers the Arab leaders in Morocco, Syria, and Egypt and with President 'Arafat and U.S. President Clinton for the sake of adopting a convincing resolution and maintaining the phrase related to occupied Jerusalem in the resolution. The

Foreign Ministry summoned the ambassadors of the Security Council permanent member states and other member states and emphasized to them Jordan's desire to see the resolution adopted in its entirety and unanimously.

Resolution 904 provided the required level of positive points, foremost being its strong condemnation of the massacre and provision of protection and security for the Palestinian people in Palestinian territories. It held Israel, in its capacity as an occupying force, responsible for security and protection in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention and for disarming settlers. Moreover, the explicit reference to Jerusalem as an occupied territory is a positive step toward recognizing the Arab and Islamic right to this holy city. Obviously, the implementation of this resolution requires intensive Arab efforts, cooperation, and follow-up for the sake of providing protection and security for the Palestinian people against aggression and oppression.

There is no need to remind the deputies of the Jordanian position on Jerusalem as directed by his majesty the supreme commander and of Jordan's insistence on maintaining its identity, solemnity, and sanctity; on renovating the holy places, the Dome of the Rock, and the al-Aqsa Mosque courtyards; on supporting the establishments operating in Jerusalem; on returning it to Arab sovereignty; on combating attempts to obliterate the Arab and Islamic nature of the holy city; and on standing up against the attempts of the so-called Temple Faithful to encroach on the al-Aqsa Mosque and holy places.

You may also recall that the Declaration of Principles signed on 13 September 1993 states that negotiations on Jerusalem will be conducted in the final and not the transitional phase. Therefore, Jordan has actively worked to defend the historical and religious sovereignty of Jerusalem so that Israel would not exploit the transitional period and continue to change the situation in Jerusalem, especially since it has annexed the city and considers the eastern and western parts of the city the unified capital of Israel even though this annexation was not internationally recognized.

Several Security Council resolutions have been issued since the start of occupation. They dealt with the protection of the Palestinian people and held Israel responsible in its capacity as the occupation authority. However, these resolutions referred to Israel's responsibility in all the occupied Arab territories without explicitly mentioning Jerusalem. This means the responsibility for protection in Jerusalem was implicitly included in the text. Therefore, the United States abstained from voting on two paragraphs referring to occupied Jerusalem on the pretext that the issue of Jerusalem will be discussed in its entirety at the beginning of the third year of the transitional phase and that attention is now focusing on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles.

He added: The resolution as a whole is a good one, both in its preamble and its operative paragraphs. The United States' abstention from voting on two paragraphs in the preamble on the pretext that discussion of the issue of Jerusalem is postponed does not undermine the resolution, which was unanimously approved by the Council.

Hence, the Jordanian move was carefully studied because omitting reference to occupied Jerusalem after that lengthy debate would result in a problem. Likewise, the failure of the resolution through a U.S. veto would be a diplomatic and political setback. Consequently, the U.S.'s abstention has not blocked the resolution, which is now valid and applicable.

You are well aware of the place Jerusalem occupies in King Husayn's heart and mind and of what he is always doing for its sake. The Jordanian Government's position on the resolution [as published] remains as you have always known it; namely, peace should be just, permanent, and comprehensive; the occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem, should be regained on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which contained other clauses like the rights of refugees and evacuees, water, and other issues, and on the basis of land for peace; and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights to their full national soil should be secured. The issue of Jerusalem is one of the most serious and complex issues. We cannot envisage peace without restoring full Arab and Islamic rights in the city.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee denounced the U.S. position during the UN Security Council vote on the resolution condemning the ugly Zionist massacre of worshipers at the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque. In a statement issued yesterday, the committee denounced the U.S. reservation on two clauses in the resolution, the first considered holy Jerusalem part of the occupied Arab territories and the second called for securing international protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories and demanded that the competent quarters do so.

The committee voiced its pride in and appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn's courageous stand and his initiative in contacting the Arab leaders to formulate a united and effective position toward what is taking place. It also voiced full satisfaction with the position of the 14 Security Council members who condemned the massacre and called for providing protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

The committee chairman and members had earlier yesterday met with Talal Sat'an al-Hasan and discussed with him some issues related to the important events on the Jordanian and international arenas, including Security Council Resolution 904, which included the international community's condemnation of the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. The minister reviewed the Jordanian Government's position toward this resolution and explained Jordan's moves before and after the issuance of the resolution and its intensive contacts on the Arab and international levels. [passage omitted]

House Deputies Give 'Mixed Reactions'

JN2003134394 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 19 Mar 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] Members from the Lower House of Parliament voiced mixed reactions to the UN Resolution [904]. While recognizing the rare unvetoed resolution, they urged the international community to ensure the protection of the Palestinians. They also voiced concern at Washington's position on Jerusalem. Maha al-Sha'ir went to the Parliament and asked some of its members about last night's resolution.

[Begin recording] ['Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali, Foreign Relations Committee chairman] I was really disappointed that the resolution took more than three weeks to be adopted and in the consultation and negotiation behind the scenes until they reached that resolution. The positive, I suppose that this has been a resolution which give the Palestinians the right to have a protection in the occupied territories, international security present to protect the Palestinians and to give them certain protection in the occupied territories. The negative thing is the position of the United States concerning the Jerusalem problem. The massacre itself has proved that Jerusalem is a very important issue and the sensitive and important issue should be discussed.

[Samir Qa'war] You know that Jerusalem is for everybody in the world really and it is for the three religions and it has to be solved within the context of the peace process negotiations, but we hope that the Arab rights in East Jerusalem will be realized to be controlled by the Arabs.

['Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah] Well, I don't think this is a pertinent resolution concerning a massacre of such a magnitude and the delay of the resolution which has taken around one month. Were it against any other country, it would have taken place instantaneously. The United States has been delaying taking such a resolution up until it mitigated the massacre itself after putting so many pressures on the PLO and on other members of the Security Council. Second, it only condemns; it didn't take any measures concerning the occupation, concerning the protection of the Palestinians. [end recording]

Council of Ministers Commends Resolution

JN1903134094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] The Council of Ministers held a session today under Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali. It discussed the UN Security Council resolution passed at dawn today on the massacre in the holy Ibrahimi Mosque.

During the session, Dr. al-Majali submitted a report on the contacts His Majesty King Husayn had with his brothers, the Arab leaders, to stress the need for the UN Security Council resolution to contain a clear stipulation on Jerusalem. This is because omitting the paragraph on Jerusalem, as some pressures sought, would have negatively affected the position and status of the holy city.

Following the session, Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state and information minister, answered questions posed by reporters. He said:

[Begin recording] [Al-'Anani] The government, represented by the Council of Ministers, today studied the Security Council resolution passed yesterday in the wake of the bloody massacre which occurred in Hebron in Ramadan, corresponding to 25 February, this year.

The government found out that this resolution contained positive points, the most important of which are, first, condemning the massacre; second, providing protection and security to the Palestinian people; and third, focusing on the need to protect citizens in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention, issued in 1949, including occupied Jerusalem. The resolution also contained a call for resuming the peace negotiations and stressed the need to continue this process and immediately implement the Gaza-Jericho First agreement without delay.

These are the main points which the Council of Ministers studied. Moreover, his excellency the prime minister submitted to the Council of Ministers a report on the contacts His Majesty King Husayn had with his brothers, the Arab leaders, to stress the need for this resolution to contain a clear provision on Jerusalem. This is because omitting this sentence from the resolution, in compliance with some pressures in this direction, would have negatively affected the status of this holy city which occupies a prominent position among the Arabs and Muslims.

Therefore, and following a lengthy discussion of this point, the Council of Ministers agreed that the resolution, in general, contains positive points that deserve appreciation.

[Unidentified reporter] Your Excellency the Minister: In light of the vote on the Jerusalem issue, how do you view the need for Jordanian and Arab moves on this issue?

[Al-'Anani] It is very clear that the declared Israeli position on Jerusalem and maintaining that Jerusalem will remain Israel's unified capital, according to some statements made by Israeli officials, is something which we reject in part and parcel. We also regard Jerusalem as an occupied city that has a sacred status which no party, such as Israel, should undermine, or should threaten through any challenge, occupation, or acceptance of the status quo. In our assessment, therefore, the U.S. position was taken because the United States had either to reject and veto the resolution or abstain. The Americans preferred to abstain.

However, from now on, we should work together to confront the Israeli schemes in Jerusalem, especially since there are some reports which say that evacuating the settlements in the places from which the Israeli Army may withdraw could entail the transfer of some settlers to Jerusalem. Hence, action is greatly desired on all levels, as are contacts with various bodies and states. The Jordanian Government supports, backs, and is ready to make, every required effort to explain Jerusalem's status and importance and the fact that Jerusalem is an occupied land.

[Reporter] Your Excellency: Do you view the Security Council resolution as sufficient to resume Arab-Israeli negotiations?

[Al-'Anani] Yes, I believe that the resolution is sufficient to resume Arab-Israeli negotiations. Such a decision, however, should be made as a result of Arab agreement and coordination because the decision to halt or freeze the negotiations immediately after the terrible Hebron massacre was made through an Arab decision of this kind. [end recording]

The Council of Ministers also listened to a report by Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, on His Highness Crown Prince Hasan's visit to Croatia and Bosnia- Herzegovina. He stressed that the visit was very successful and that Jordan seeks a just and comprehensive peace in that region. Jordan also supports the agreement reached by the Bosnian Muslims and Croats to establish a federation, which the Serbs may join, in order to safeguard the aspired peace in that region, al-Hasan added.

In his report, the minister of state for foreign affairs stressed that His Highness Crown Prince Hasan found during his meetings with the leaders of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina and UN officials appreciation for Jordan's role and humanitarian aid, and also for the effective and fine contribution by the Jordanian Armed Forces as part of the UN troops.

Information Minister Views Resolution

JN2003082494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Mar 94 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—Jordan will await a consensus among Arab parties to Middle East peace negotiations before it takes final decision on resuming rounds of bilateral talks in Washington, Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani told the JORDAN TIMES Saturday [19 March].

Dr. al-'Anani said that the decision to "cut short" bilateral talks in the U.S. capital in protest after the Feb. 25 massacre of Palestinian worshipers in Hebron by an extremist Jewish settler was taken within an Arab context and had to be similarly reversed.

"We need an Arab decision," Dr. al-'Anani said. His comments came after a cabinet meeting Saturday during which details of a United Nations Security Council resolution condemning the Hebron massacre were discussed.

Dr. al-'Anani said the Kingdom welcomed the Security Council's resolution condemning the massacre but expressed reservations over Washington's decision to abstain from voting on the part of the resolution that described Arab East Jerusalem as Israeli-occupied territory.

"We hope that the Israeli statements that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel have not received a boost by the American vote," said Dr. al-'Anani.

He said that Jordan had been made to understand that the U.S. abstention "was in line with what they said was the terms of the Oslo agreement which relegates the negotiations over Jerusalem to final status talks."

"But our position is that Jerusalem is an occupied territory regardless of when its final status is to be negotiated," Dr. al-'Anani added,

The minister, however, described the resolution, passed late Friday after weeks of haggling, as a "good decision."

He said that the resolution provided positive stipulations protecting the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Dr. al-'Anani added that Jordan "viewed positively" the resolution's call for accelerating the peace process and reiteration of the applicability of the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention to the territories occupied by Israel in June 1967 including Jerusalem.

A source in Jordan's delegation to the peace talks said an announcement by U.S. Ambassador Madeline Albright that Jordan, Syria and Lebanon had agreed to resume negotiations with Israel in April "is inaccurate."

The source, who asked for anonymity, said that Jordan's decision to consult with its Arab partners before resuming negotiations "does not mean that Jordan will not return" to the negotiating table in April as was announced by the U.S. envoy. [sentence as published]

The Kingdom, along with Syria and Lebanon, "only took a decision to cut short a round of bilateral talks between the heads of the negotiating teams in Washington in February." The three teams left the U.S. capital three days before the scheduled end of that round.

At the time, Jordanian sources said that the negotiators were not expected to return to Washington before April mostly to accommodate religious holidays of the Muslims and Christians in March and early April.

Further al-'Alani Comments on Resolution

NC2103095294 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Interview with Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, in Amman, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] What is Jordan's impression of and stance on the Security Council's resolution denouncing the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre?

[Al-'Anani] The Jordanian Government met on Saturday morning following the announcement and held an extensive debate on it. The government decided that the resolution, Security Council Resolution 904, is generally positive, contains some points that we regard as positive, and advances the issue it dealt with, primarily the protection of the Palestinian people and their security on their national soil.

We found the clear reference to the occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem, to be positive. We believe that the clear and strong denunciation of the massacre was one of the positive points. The note on the need for Israel to apply the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1945 in all occupied Arab territories, including east Jerusalem, was a positive point in that resolution. We believe it is now necessary to adopt practical measures to translate the resolution into a tangible reality, because the Jordanian Government notes with extreme concern that the injuries and killings in the occupied Arab land since the massacre on 25 February are increasing considerably. We must take measures that will guarantee the protection and security of the Palestinian people.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] After Security Council Resolution 904 denouncing the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre was passed, is it now certain that the peace process will be resumed?

[Al-'Anani] You know the massacre happened while consultations were under way among the heads of the delegations of the countries participating in the negotiating process. But after consultations among themselves, these delegations made a collective decision on the need to suspend the negotiations until measures are decided following the horrible carnage in Hebron. We believe the resolution has contributed to creating a favorable atmosphere for resuming negotiations to reach a comprehensive, just, and durable solution based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338 as well as 425, which concerns Lebanon. Jordan believes the road is now open to return to negotiations but, as happened before, the decision [to resume talks] must come after coordination among the negotiating countries or among the foreign ministers of the cordon states that held previous meetings in which Egypt participated, represented by its foreign minister.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Where does the Jordanian-Israeli track stand?

[Al-'Anani] The Jordanian-Israeli track of the negotiations at the end of the consultations among the delegation heads in Washington almost reached the point of formulating some topics on the agenda and a detailed subagenda was agreed for negotiating these topics. On water, energy, and the environment, there was agreement on most of the topics that must be discussed in this framework. But security and the borders, as some of the key topics on the agenda, on the basis of which an agreement will be reached on the mechanism of Israel's withdrawal from the Jordanian occupied territories, are not yet settled. Besides, the issue of refugees still needs discussion. We can say that there is an atmosphere that calls for optimism about progress but we cannot say that any (?positive) progress has occurred on substantial issues.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What is your [words indistinct] Arab coordination, especially with the resumption of the peace process in April?

[Al-'Anani] Jordan has always believed in the need for full Arab coordination to support and continue the peace process because Arab coordination unifies Arab stances and precludes unilateral measures. Some issues on the agenda on the Arab track are interlinked and we want to make sure that the Arab stances are harmonious and integrated.

We believe the horrible massacre of Hebron has provided clear evidence that any decision or measure affecting a single track, such as the Palestinian-Israeli track, is bound to have obvious repercussions and effects on other Arab tracks that would block their progress. We believe that Arab coordination (?strengthens) Arab stances and prevents unilateral measures and competition among Arab tracks at their own expense.

Information Minister on King's Gulf Tour, Peace

JN2003093994 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Mar 94 pp 1, 21

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y—His Majesty King Husayn will leave for Oman tomorrow, Monday, on the first leg of a tour that will take him also to the sisterly State of Qatar. During the visit, the king will meet with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id. On Wednesday [23 March], the king will head for Doha on a visit to Qatar to meet with His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani.

King Husayn will be accompanied, during this tour, by an official delegation including Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, and a number of advisers and ministers.

Yesterday, the king met with Nasir Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, ambassador of the State of Qatar in Amman, and reviewed with him the fraternal ties and the current Arab situation.

Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani said that King Husayn's visit to Oman and Qatar comes within the framework of the fraternal ties between Jordanian and these two countries. In a statement to AL-RA'Y, Dr. al-'Anani said: Jordan has called for a review of the nature of inter-Arab relations, which must be based on mutual respect, and for restoring these relations apart from the impact of the oil era and the misinterpretation of the Jordanian stand during the Gulf war. He added that Jordan has explained its position many times.

Dr. al-'Anani noted that Jordanian-Qatari relations have witnessed significant improvement since the Gulf war, adding that the joint economic agreement has been renewed and many agreements in the fields of education, trade exchange, and information have been revived.

Regarding relations with Oman, Dr. al-'Anani said that our bilateral relations are cordial and fraternal, noting that coordination between the two countries has never stopped.

The information minister spoke about Jordan's international role with regard to its forces taking part in UN peacekeeping missions. He said that this role will develop with time due to increasing respect for the reputation of these forces because of their high efficiency, capability, and discipline.

Dr. al-'Anani said the decision to suspend the peace talks was made after coordination among the Arab delegations following the massacre of the Ibrahimi Mosque. He noted that the massacre has spoiled the general atmosphere of the talks and underscored basic issues that must be raised before continuing the talks, the most important of which is the security of the Palestinians. He said that the decision to return to the negotiating table will be made after coordination with these states.

Dr. al-'Anani said that Jordan has always called for an end to the human rights violations perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinians, noting that these practices contradict the peace process.

The information minister reiterated the need for continuous consultation between Jordan and the PLO, noting that His Majesty King Husayn has always stressed this. He added that the king also stressed that consultation and coordination should be held within the framework of the peace process itself, not the post-peace stages.

King Departs Amman for Oman, Qatar Visits

JN2103104994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn left the homeland this morning in God's care and protection on visits to the Sultanate of Oman and the State of Qatar.

During his visit to Oman, his majesty will hold talks with his brother, His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, aimed at enhancing coordination and consultations between the two sisterly countries and following up developments pertaining to both Yemeni reconciliation and the joint military Jordanian-Omani committee entrusted with effecting Yemeni reconciliation.

During his visit to Qatar, his majesty will hold talks with his brother, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, on the regional situation, ways to bolster Arab solidarity, and recent developments in the peace process in the wake of UN Security Council Resolution 904. [passage omitted]

In the presence of ministers, His Highness Prince Muhammad, his majesty the king's personal representative, took the constitutional oath as his majesty's regent during his stay abroad.

His majesty is accompanied by His Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin- al-Husayn; His Highness Prince Hamzah Bin-al-Husayn; His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Marwan al-Qasim, his majesty's political adviser; Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, his majesty's adviser; His Eminence Shaykh 'Izz-al-Din al- Khatib al-Tamimi, his majesty's adviser for religious affairs and the chief justice; Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs; the Jordanian ambassador to Oman; and a number of senior civil and military officials.

King To Discuss Yemen With Omani Sultan

JN2103082994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn will pay a visit to the Sultanate of Oman today. This will be followed by a visit to the State of Qatar on Wednesday [23 March] in order to hold consultations and coordination with the leaders of both fraternal countries.

In a statement to AFP, his majesty added that during his visit to Oman he will discuss with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id the Yemeni accord document signed in Amman on 20 February. His majesty pointed out that there will also be an assessment of the joint efforts regarding what was achieved and the situation in the future; in other words, whether or not to continue [these efforts] or have the kinsfolk and brothers in Yemen tackle their matters and situation [internally].

His majesty regarded his visit to Qatar as heralding the resumption of relations, which were always strong and based on confidence and amity. He pointed out that the visit comes after a long cessation of such fraternal visits.

U.S. Criticized on Jerusalem Stance, Hebron Vote

U.S. Efforts To 'Exclude' Jerusalem Seen

JN1903121594 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Mar 94 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "No to the Attempt To Exclude Jerusalem"]

[Text] Developments in the last hours of the UN Security Council's deliberations on the hideous bloody massacre committed by Zionist settlers in the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque reflected serious attitudes. These attitudes have deviated from the principles governing the peace process. It is clear that such attitudes seek to circumvent these principles instead of being a motive to rectify the course of these principles, which has been marred and obstructed by Israeli policies and practices.

The reservations—which were expressed only by the United States over the term "occupied" in reference to the Israeli-occupied territories, including Jerusalem, in return for a mere oral condemnation of the terrible massacre—amount to blackmail which would grant Israel a false legitimacy regarding the status of Jerusalem. These reservations also violate the international resolutions which consider this holy city as an occupied territory and regard Israel's annexation of Jerusalem as null and void and an illegal measure.

Stemming from Jordan's realization of both this serious situation and the political facts which could result from it under the aegis of the UN Security Council, the Jordanian leadership and Government have embarked on a high-level political move to circumvent the ongoing attempts regarding Jerusalem's legal status and cautioning against the dangers posed by any resolution which would ignore Jerusalem's legal and legitimate status as part of the peace process. This could undermine the whole peace process and bring things back to square one in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The contacts held between His Majesty King Husayn and Presidents al-Asad, Mubarak, and 'Arafat and King Hassan II, as well as the summoning by the minister of state for foreign affairs of the ambassadors of the five permanent Security Council member states and other council members both emanate from the bases of the consistent Jordanian position on holy Jerusalem. King Husayn asserted that sovereignty over Jerusalem will only be that of God, and that Jerusalem will remain a holy city which is yearned for by all believers in God from the three monotheistic religions.

The inclusion in the Security Council resolution of the condemnation of the bloody Friday events in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque and a demand for effective international protection measures for the defenseless Palestinian people against the oppression of the occupation army and the Zionist extremists and terrorists should not mean selling out the Arab character of holy Jerusalem or relinquishing this city for the cheap price Israel is trying to push under the aegis of the United Nations and its Security Council through absolute U.S. support.

In view of this serious situation and the great challenge posed to one of the holiest Arab and Islamic places, the Arab and Islamic nations are now urged to adopt a decisive and effective position to confront the usurpation, exclusion, and annexation of Jerusalem by the Zionist entity.

Stemming from a sensing of the danger and feeling of national and pan-Arab responsibility, we appeal to the Arab and Islamic leaders to rise to the level of this challenge and ignore all differences, trifles, and tribal fanaticism, as well as support the Jordanian move designed to close ranks, unify the Arab position, and champion both Jerusalem and the Palestinian people, who are standing fast on their land with unwavering faith, thwarting the danger, and paying the tax of blood, souls, and jihad, before it is too late.

'Serious Change' on Jerusalem Viewed

JN1903132194 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Mar 94 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "A Serious U.S. Change"]

[Text] As always, King Husayn has moved quickly to formulate an Arab reply to the serious change in the U.S. position on the issue of holy Jerusalem. This change surfaced during the UN Security Council's deliberations yesterday prior to passing a resolution on the Zionist massacre committed in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque on 25 February.

His majesty promptly made contacts with the fraternal Arab leaders in Rabat, Damascus, Cairo, and Tunis. He stressed the need for an Arab effort to safeguard Palestinian rights and thwart the danger posed to holy Jerusalem. He also emphasized the importance of coordination among the Arab brothers on issues related to the peace process in order to confront the important developments of the serious U.S. position on the issue of Jerusalem.

The serious change in the U.S. Administration's position—from considering this holy city as an indivisible part of the occupied territories to not considering it as part, and quite the most important part, of these territories—would threaten the stumbling Arab-Israeli peace process with grave failure and would also pave the way for U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

This change heralds a yet more serious change in the U.S. position on the entire peace process, thus turning Washington from a cosponsor of the Arab-Israeli peace process to a spade designed to totally destroy this process. It would also bring the aspired balance in the U.S. Administration's position between the two parties to the conflict back to the eras of the clear U.S. bias toward Israel.

King Husayn has always warned against the dangers posed by a collapse in the peace process. It can be learned from his majesty's quick move yesterday that he feels the imminent danger posed to this process. This requires a fast Arab reply and coordination at the highest level.

We hope for a quick Arab response to King Husayn's efforts. Such a response should be equal to the danger which his majesty feels whenever there is an imminent large threat to the Arab nation. We hope that this "SOS" will not go unheeded, so we, along with all other Arabs, will not regret it. Such regret would then be useless.

'Negative' U.S. Position at UN Assailed

JN2003101394 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Mar 94 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "The Security Council Vote Reveals the U.S. Position"]

[Text] After lengthy procrastination and repeated delays, the UN Security Council has passed its awaited resolution on the massacre of worshipers in the Ibrahimi Mosque, thus opening the way for the resumption of the Arab-Israeli negotiations, including the bilateral negotiations on implementing the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

Despite some positive points in this resolution, the way that the United States voted on some of its paragraphs, not to mention the U.S. obstruction of the Security Council for approximately three weeks, revealed the U.S. Administration's true position and confirmed that this U.S. Administration holds a greater bias toward Israel than that of former U.S. Administrations.

The comments made by the U.S. representative at the Security Council, after this resolution was passed, are perhaps the clearest example of this extreme U.S. bias toward Israel, especially since she announced that her country does not regard the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Arab Jerusalem as occupied territories, so, according to her, they are not covered under the Fourth Geneva Convention concerning the situation of civilians at wartime.

Given this, and in view of this extremely biased U.S. position, we do not need to wonder whether Washington is entitled to play an honest broker role in the Middle East conflict. We do, however, wonder about another doubtful issue: Will the new Security Council resolution be implemented on the ground, particularly regarding international protection for Palestinians, as long as the Clinton administration, which is facing a domestic crisis, flatters both Israel and its U.S. friends in this manner?

While not wishing to focus any more attention on this extremely negative U.S. position toward an important aspect of the Middle East conflict; namely, Arab Jerusalem, we do hope that the recent Security Council resolution will be translated into tangible results. We wish to see results that will help open the door wide to the resumption of the peace process and help make the desired changes in the lives of the citizens in the occupied Palestinian territory.

U.S. Stand at UN Attacked

JN2003114094 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Mar 94 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "What Is Left of the International Legitimacy?"]

[Text] As a new round of Arab-Israeli negotiations will be held next month, the question that should be posed is: Will the United States sponsor this round on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338 or based on Resolution 904, which showed a comprehensive reversal of the U.S. position on both Jerusalem and other occupied Palestinian territories?

The new U.S. position clearly means that the word "First" has been dropped from the famous Oslo agreement, that there is no more room to talk about the post-Gaza-Jericho phase, and that Resolution 904 canceled the reported postponement of the discussions on Jerusalem and the sovereignty over it. Above all, this also means that the televised display that took place at the White House on 13 September was sent off to the U.S. archives to be stored with other shows labeled: No longer suitable for broadcast!

The Palestinians, along with other Arabs, have gained a condemnation of the Ramadan massacre, which was registered against unknown perpetrators. This is because the Security Council resolution did not condemn the Zionist enemy or hold it responsible for not committing itself to protecting the Palestinian citizens in accordance with the Geneva conventions. Meanwhile, the Israelis—in return for accepting the condemnation of the massacre, rather than its perpetrators—gained recognition of their usurpation of Jerusalem and other Palestinian territories, except for the small areas of Gaza and Jericho. This humiliating deal raises the question: Is it worthwhile for the Arab delegations to return to Washington for negotiations, and what issues will be discussed after the United States has granted legitimacy to the occupation of land?

While realizing the bitterness of returning to the negotiating table, we should not hesitate to assert that it is the Palestinian side that chose to return and that prompted the other Arab delegations to do so. When the PLO decides to agree on resuming the negotiations, we are confident that the Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese parties will not have enough bargaining chips to continue to boycott the negotiations as an expression of their indignation over Resolution 904. It is essential here to note that the few months between mid-September 1993 and mid-March 1994 have placed us all before the fact that the peace that Washington and the Zionist enemy are seeking is not a just peace, that what is left of the bases of the Madrid conference is not worthwhile, and that the Gaza-Jericho First agreement has become insignificant since the word "First" was dropped and after the enemy clearly pursued policies regarding Gaza and Jericho as two new Palestinian camps on Palestinian national soil!

Paper Blames PLO for U.S. Position on Jerusalem

JN2103110994 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Mar 94 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "Jerusalem Which They Have Let Down!"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said that it was a mistake and a serious matter to introduce Jerusalem into the draft resolution pertaining to the Ramadan massacre in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque. This introduction resulted in compensating the Zionist enemy for an incomplete condemnation of the massacre with a new and serious U.S. position on the occupation of Jerusalem. Washington abstained on an article of the draft resolution that considers Jerusalem as an occupied territory. This is a tragic position that needs an open U.S. explanation.

His majesty's statements to AFP stressed his disappointment and great fears about the shift in the U.S. position. Despite all the efforts his majesty made before the vote on the draft resolution, the United States maintained its position because the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, which other Arabs did not join, led to this devastating result and placed the entire Arab nation at a serious turning point concerning the occupation of Jerusalem. This requires an explanation by the PLO first, and also by other Arabs, particularly those who have always stressed their determination to perform prayers in Jerusalem!

Resolution 904 is one of the bitter fruits and devastating results of the Arab situation. Certain people are eager to maintain Arab estrangement and differences. At a time when these people are encouraging capitulation to the Zionist enemy and giving material and moral bribes to each party that shows readiness for this capitulation, we find out that these people continue to pay such bribes in order to maintain Arab fragmentation, grudges, and weakness. This tempted others into destroying us during the Gulf catastrophe, and is now tempting them into bringing about further destruction and humiliation.

King Husayn's statement was replete with bitterness and disappointment. To his majesty and to all genuine Arabs and Muslims, Jerusalem is our spiritual capital, so any position hostile to its Arab and Islamic character will evoke the king's anger and indignation.

Resolution 904 was another opportunity for the Arab nation to identify those who really care for both Jerusalem and every inch of our holy places, and also to identify those who do not hesitate to sell out both Jerusalem and these holy places. Meanwhile, we have not seen or heard a move designed to condemn the attempt to legitimatize the occupation of Jerusalem. Instead, we have seen people reversing all their bargaining chips and standing alongside the enemy, despite the fact that the Arabs denied the United States neither funds nor subservience, but rather kept serving the United States. Naturally, we are referring here to those Arabs who were not shocked by the serious U.S. position and who did not make efforts to crystallize an Arab or Islamic position that would enable us to confront this situation. Moreover, these people demonstrated grudges, bad manners, and rancor to their brethren whereas they demonstrated love, cordiality, and good treatment to the enemy!

Al-Asad Briefs al-Hirawi on Clinton's Phone Call

NC1803172494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad today phoned President Ilyas al-Hirawi and briefed him on the telephone call he had received from U.S. President Bill Clinton on the peace process and the need to continue negotiations.

Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi exchanged views on developments in the region and the UN Security Council's discussions. They agreed to meet shortly to formulate a joint position.

Al-Hirawi on Need To Implement Resolution 425

NC1903152194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] On the 16th anniversary of Security Council Resolution 425, President Ilyas al-Hirawi has emphasized that Lebanon looks to the UN to help everybody implement the international resolutions. Lebanon, he added, has proved its ability to overcome its crisis and is able to extend the state's authority to every inch of its territory.

President al-Hirawi added that Lebanon, which seeks UN help to safeguard its inalienable rights, rejects violence as a way of resolving crises just as it rejects infringement of its national dignity and legitimate rights. He added: Resolution 425 did not give us a right we were not entitled to. Rather, it reaffirmed our sacred right to have our sovereignty respected.

The president added: Let Israel withdraw from our land and the state will take it upon itself to maintain stability there. He stressed the need for alertness and solidarity with our brothers and cooperation with our friends to secure the implementation of the international resolutions, chiefly Resolution 425.

Army Enters Headquarters of Lebanese Forces 19 Mar

NC1903121394 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] For the second time in less than 48 hours, forces of the Lebanese Army entered the central administrative headquarters of the Lebanese Forces Party in Zuq Mikha'il at 1200 today. Army personnel forced the administrative officials to leave the building and prevented anyone from entering it.

Meanwhile, a Lebanese Army unit entered the students' building in Tabarja today. Our radio tried in vain to contact the party's central headquarters to inquire about the situation there.

Army Issues Statement

NC1903121894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] We have just received the following:

The following statement was issued a short time ago by the Army command:

Within the context of the on-going investigations into the recent explosions, particularly the Sayyidat al-Najat Church bombing in Zuq Mikha'il, units from the army were this afternoon given the task of raiding some positions and sites in Zuq and Tabarja where preliminary investigations have shown that they were used as centers and a cover-up for some of these activities. The aforementioned units were also put in charge of these sites and tasked with putting them at the disposal of the investigations until further notice.

Ja'ja' Denies Link to Church Bombing

NC2003075694 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] In a statement to AL-HAYAH newspaper, Dr. Samir Ja'ja' said: I again reject any direct or indirect hints or accusations of the Lebanese forces for bombing the Sayyidat al-Najat Church. He said that those who make these accusations are unscrupulous criminals who want to cover up their actions by accusing us. These accusations are rumors and are not based on evidence [words indistinct].

Ja'ja' said that under the pretext of investigations, an organized political campaign of suppression is launched. The campaign is now aimed against the Lebanese forces and it will be aimed against other parties tomorrow.

According to press reports, Dr. Ja'ja' made two telephone calls to President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri inquiring about the reasons for the raids on the Lebanese Forces centers and requesting them to intercede to stop this campaign.

Views Measures Against Lebanese Forces

NC2003092794 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Lebanese Forces [LF] Commander Samir Ja'ja' said at a news conference that certain security and military units raided two LF headquarters in Zuq Mikha'il and the al-Nubin Club center which they had raided two days ago and forced the officials there to leave the buildings. He said that after contacts with a number of officials, we opted to keep silent for a while and to allow quiet diplomacy to resolve the issue so that it may not be misinterpreted. We maintained this stance because we believe that through dialogue, understanding, and discussions we may find serious solutions to all problems, whereas other means would lead nowhere.

Ja'ja' said that certain state officials began about 10 days ago to point the finger at the LF as responsible for the bombing of the Sayyidat al-Najat Church and other bombings. He wondered if it is possible to try a case before a court hearing even begins. He pointed out that the recent statement issued by the Internal Security Forces Directorate looks as if the explosive charge was prepared at the LF main headquarters. He asked: If this is true, is it possible to occupy the center? He said that the case should be referred to the judiciary to hear the case and hand down a verdict, because accusing people falsely is inadmissible.

Ja'ja' stressed that the LF, as always, will side with justice to the end. He pointed out that the LF has offered 10,000 martyrs in defense of churches in all Lebanese areas, and wondered if it is reasonable for the LF to bomb a church anywhere.

Ja'ja' noted that what is happening these days may be the last link in a chain before suppressing political freedoms in Lebanon. He said: As for me, the situation is very clear. Every time a security incident occurs, it is used as a pretext to take further security measures to apply more pressure on the opposition parties, individuals, and politicians instead of hunting down the perpetrators.

He wonders if political opposition is not allowed in Lebanon. If it is not allowed, he said, let them say so clearly so that everyone will shoulder his responsibilities. He added: We set forth our basic demand at the first news conference we held after the bombing of the Sayyidat al-Najat Church: We want to learn who bombed the church. He hoped that the state would find the perpetrators. He said that the judiciary will decide this; otherwise, why do countries take judicial measures in such cases? He said: We truly wish that the case be referred to the judiciary to hand down its verdict.

Ja'ja' said that the bombing of the church led to the deployment of security forces in LF centers and surrounding Ghidras [LF headquarters], although the investigations for the past 10 days have not led to the bombers. He called for finding the culprits responsible for the crime of bombing the church and proceeding with judicial measures to find the culprits.

Al-Hariri Comments on Church Bombing Investigation

NC2103091094 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has told AL-NAHAR that investigations into the church bombing are taking their natural course. There are no doubts regarding the measures that have been taken or regarding the fairness and honJsty of the judicial system. The media should not pressure the judiciary, because investigations continue and justice will inevitably take its course. The prime minister added: The authorities must adhere to all the measures that are taken. The judiciary must be given enough time to investigate the minute details. This is why the issue is proceeding according to judicial protocol and within the authority of the law. Answering a question, he said: Attempts to destroy the security and political situation in the country are directed at the whole country's unity and civilian security. But these attempts have not succeeded, praise be to God, he said.

In an interview with AL-DIYAR, Prime Minister al-Hariri announced that the Cabinet will meet on 23 March. He noted that the results of investigations into the Zuq Mikha'il explosion will be announced when a decision is made. He said the deployment of the Army in two Lebanese Forces positions is linked with the investigations into the church bombing. He added that all the steps taken proceed from the judicial stipulations followed in the Lebanese state.

Al-Hariri said there is complete cooperation among the executive authorities and their various organs as well as understanding over the methods of handling this situation in accordance with the legal bases and laws.

The prime minister continued: We are facing real dangers from Israel, which is lurking in the shadows. He said the current situation is crucial. It is now time for us to stand alongside our country. It is time for citizens to stand beside Lebanon. We know the true direction of the compass—reconstructing Lebanon and continuing the march of development. My belief in Lebanon is great. Despite the very difficult times, my belief has never waned. We will continue to rebuild and grow, to rebuild the state, the prime minister said.

Connections of Church Bombing Culprits Cited

NC2003075294 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Citing one of the top three leaders [president, Chamber speaker, prime minister], the newspaper AL-HAYAH reports today that the network involved in the bombing of the Sayyidat al-Najat Church has direct links to Israel, noting that the network leaders are linked to a local militia. The paper says that the network leaders had often visited the security strip and a European capital.

According to the top leader, AL-HAYAH says that the investigations into the incident will inevitably confirm whether party and militia leaders are involved in the bombing, particularly since the group leader, who probably has escaped to the Jazzin area in the security strip, was in charge of security affairs in a local influential militia in the Kasrawan region. The group leader, according to AL-HAYAH, is a relative of a prominent party leader.

AL-HAYAH also cites official sources as saying that the initial stage of the preparation of the explosives was conducted in Sinn al-Fil before the culprits moved to the Zuq area. The culprits then used a party center, which has often been raided, to assemble the explosive devices before planting them in the church.

Council of Ministers Views Decisions on Security

NC1703091594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Statement by Information Minister Michel Samahah at the Ba'bda Palace on 16 March—recorded]

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held an extraordinary meeting under his excellency the president of the Republic. The meeting was attended by the prime minister and the ministers.

At the beginning, the president reviewed the situation in the country, focusing on events before and after the explosion in the Sayyidat al-Najat Church in Zuq Mikha'il and the local and regional atmosphere accompanying this crime. The president emphasized the critical stage through which the country is passing and the need to mobilize every effort to reinforce national unity and the peace process in the face of any action against them and against internal stability. He stressed the sovereignty of Lebanese law and its application throughout the liberated Lebanese territory.

The prime minister then briefed the Council on security reports regarding the situation in the country and the measures adopted by the Internal Security Council, a meeting of which he chaired on 15 March to reinforce the security situation and confront every attempt to undermine national stability.

The Council of Ministers discussed the conditions in the country in light of the review presented by the president and the prime minister on the premise that Lebanese law and legitimate institutions and their services entrusted to implement the law are the authority for imposing security and implementing Lebanese law in every Lebanese area. The Council reconfirmed its decisions at previous sessions to empower the security services to deal with every emergency incident designed to undermine security, stability, and the establishment of state authority. It also confirmed all the measures adopted at the meeting of the Internal Security Council yesterday in implementation of the Council of Ministers' decisions. [passage omitted]

New Chairman for Shiite Council Elected

NC1803110094 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Excerpt] The Higher Islamic Shiite Council held a meeting at its temporary headquarters in Tallat al-Khayyat this morning and elected Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din council chairman, succeeding Shaykh Musa al-Sar, the council's founder [who disappeared during a visit to Libya in August 1978]. Shaykh Shams-al-Din has been deputy chairman of the council since 1974.

The council members also elected Ja'farite Mufti 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan as first deputy chairman and Dr. 'Adnan Haydar as second deputy chairman. Some 46 of the council's 48 members attended the session. [passage omitted]

UN Security Council Passes Hebron Resolution

Al-Asad, Clinton Discuss Draft

JN1803221094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton held a phone conversation today which dealt with the Palestinian draft resolution presented to the Security Council on the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and the process of comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Resolution's Impact on Peace Talks Assessed

JN1903075594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] A responsible source has said the following: The Arab side is committed to peace and to supporting the draft Palestinian resolution presented to the UN Security Council on the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and the required measures in light of this massacre, especially those concerning the security of Arab citizens in the occupied Palestinian territories, in accordance with the stipulations of the draft resolution. This draft resolution has been approved by the Arab and Nonaligned groups at the UN Security Council and other states. In light of the contacts that have been held with U.S. President Clinton, and after consultations with some Arab brothers directly concerned with this subject, Syria will soon invite the Arab parties to the peace process to a meeting to discuss the resumption of the peace talks, and to set a date for the resumption of talks in April. Syria believes that the odious massacre that was committed against defenseless Palestinian worshipers in the holy Ibrahimi Mosque and the subsequent death and injury of many people affirm to the entire world the need to end the Israeli occupation of the occupied Arab territories and to arrive at a just, comprehensive peace in accordance with the Madrid formula, away from any procrastination and obstacles. Syria is of the view that the issuance of the UN Security Council resolution by unanimous vote and the resumption of the peace talks will bolster the international measures to provide protection for our brothers in the occupied Arab territories to prevent the recurrence of such spiteful crimes.

Commentary Says Peace Process 'Salvaged'

JN1903153794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: With the adoption of Security Council Resolution 904, which strongly condemns the massacre at the holy Ibrahimi Mosque and the subsequent killing of Palestinians, and which calls for international protection for our kinsfolk in the occupied Arab territories, the Middle East peace process has been salvaged from the certain collapse planned by Israel. President Hafiz al-Asad held telephone contacts with King Husayn of Jordan and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. He received a telephone call from President Clinton in which the peace process and the Security Council resolution were discussed. A meeting of the Arab parties in the Washington talks is expected to be held soon in order to discuss the resumption of these talks. This is in light of international developments and the conviction of the peace process cosponsors and the entire international community about the importance of carrying out intensive efforts to implement the Security Council resolution and achieve peace in the region.

This is not the first time that Syria has taken the initiative and contributed to the rescuing of the peace process. It has done so several times, because it sensed, as it senses now, a serious international trend to see a just and comprehensive solution in the Middle East, based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, and leading to a real and lasting peace.

Security Council Resolution 904 was unanimously adopted. It stands as a clear and strong condemnation of Israel and its practices. For the first time in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the resolution calls for international protection for our kinsfolk under occupation. Prominent Security Council members demanded that the protection be real and broad, and include our kinsfolk in occupied Jerusalem. For his part, President Clinton announced that peace with Syria is of the utmost importance, and hailed Syria's sincere peaceful trends.

It is natural that Syria works to employ this international trend in the interest of the just and comprehensive peace for which it is calling, and in a way that puts Israel to the test. Israel should either bow to the will of international peace or drop its last mask and face the world's strong criticism and whatever measures the international community might take.

Undoubtedly, the peace process—despite Israel's intransigence and procrastination—took an important step forward in the adoption of Security Council Resolution 904. Tel Aviv's rulers have no excuse for evading the requirements of the peace process, especially exchanging land for peace. Israel's rulers will no longer be able to use the Arab desires for peace as a pretext, because they are the most sincere desires. The international community, especially the United States, has felt Arab eagerness for peace and Syria's serious contribution to repeatedly salvaging of the peace process from collapse as a result of Israel's practices and the designs of its rulers.

As all admit, peace cannot be made in vacuum, but should be based on the resolutions and the objective bases represented in Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and the principle of land for peace. In other words, Israel has no choice but to return the occupied Arab territories and recognize the Palestinian people's national rights. These stand as the essence of the Security Council resolutions. Any Israeli delay and procrastination designed to evade these resolutions will only increase tension in the region, and may lead to new brutal actions by Zionist settlers that will be firmly and decisively rejected by the international community.

If Resolution 904 asks Israel to disarm its settlers, then any new criminal action by settlers will surely lead to broad international protection in the occupied territories. However, Israel is skillful in the arts of procrastination and maneuvering. It has been carrying out a large-scale policy of deception since 1948. It has always shown a disdain for the principles and resolutions of the international community. For more than two years, it has been aborting the peace talks in Washington. If these talks are expected to produce a just and comprehensive solution in the Middle East, the international community should place its full weight behind efforts to implement its resolutions, support its credibility, and end the Israeli occupation.

It is important for the international community to double its efforts so it will not face new Israeli massacres that may destroy the whole peace process.

Press Views Resolution

JN2003090294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Press review]

[Text] Syria's call for a meeting of the parties to the peace process to discuss the resumption of bilateral talks, the activation of the stalemated peace process, and the UN Security Council resolution condemning the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre is the focus of today's press commentaries.

Under the headline "The Peace Process and the New Opportunity," AL-BA'TH says in its editorial: In a new effort to activate the stalemated peace process, Syria has called on the Arab parties to the peace process to meet to discuss the resumption of the bilateral talks.

AL-BA'TH stresses that many factors call for this move. First, it stresses Syria's commitment to the peace efforts and the need to advance the peace process toward its aspired objective. Second, it is completely in line with international legitimacy. This is because it immediately follows the UN Security Council resolution condemning the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and calling for the protection of our kinsfolk in the occupied territories. Third, the decision to suspend the bilateral negotiations was made after coordination among Syria and the other Arab parties to protest the Hebron massacre. Thus, Syria has reaffirmed its concern for the security of our kinfolk in the occupied territories and the need to provide all means of protection for them. This is in order to prevent the occurrence of any new crimes, which the occupation may commit at any moment if it is not deterred by the international community. The paper indicates that Syria's decision, which was made after intensive Arab and international contacts, will give the peace process a new opportunity to achieve its objectives.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says that the [UN Security Council] resolution, one way or another, reflects the responsibility of the international community, which rejects bloodshed and occupation. This responsibility must be carried out by pressuring the Rabin government into responding to the requirements of peace.

TISHRIN's editorial focuses on the UN Security Council resolution, which strongly condemns the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and calls on Israel to confiscate Zionist settlers's weapons. The resolution also calls for the protection of the Palestinian people and an international presence in the occupied Arab territories, as well as stressing the need to continue efforts to boost the peace process.

TISHRIN says that, belated as it is, the UN Security Council resolution is a positive step that will boost the peace process and urge Israel to respect the Geneva Conventions and comply with the UN Security Council resolutions. The resolution also reflects an explicit commitment to the need to protect the Palestinian people from the Zionist settlers' acts and practices.

Referring to the contacts held among President Hafiz al-Asad, U.S. President Clinton, Lebanese President al-Hirawi, and King Husayn of Jordan, TISHRIN says: It is obvious that the U.S. Administration is interested in the resumption of the peace efforts and that it realizes the dangers of the continued Israeli prevarication. Stressing sincere Arab intentions toward a genuine just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East, Syria has announced that the parties to the Washington talks will soon consider the resumption of the talks, which were suspended in solidarity with the Palestinian people to express denunciation of Israel's appalling crime. The paper adds: The interest in continuing the peace process proceeds from the need to put Israel to the test, expose its false claims about peace, convince the international community to assume its responsibilities, and to deduce lessons from two years of futile talks in Washington.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN urges the international community to rectify matters and to move after the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre to confront Israel's ceaseless efforts to obstruct the Washington talks.

Commenting on the same subject, AL-THAWRAH says that UN Security Council Resolution No. 904 condemning the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre clearly reflects the international community's eagerness to enforce its laws and conventions and to prevent Israel from continuing its defiance and disregard for international legitimacy.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Hopes are now pinned on a firm international will to find an appropriate mechanism for the enforcement of the resolution to force Israel to comply with all its paragraphs. Past experience has shown that the Israeli rulers deal with UN resolutions with disdain and derision, and that they will not abandon this provocative course unless there is effective pressure to force them to do so. The paper urges the influential UN Security Council member states to intensify their moves and efforts to ensure the credibility of the resolution and to spare it the fate of other resolutions, which remained ink on paper without any effect on the ground.

AL-THAWRAH says that the circumstances that led to the Hebron massacre will continue to exist as long as the settlements remain in the occupied Arab territories, as long as armed settlers are roaming the streets, and as long as they have the authority to open fire on Arabs.

Importance of Arab Coordination Noted

JN2103102194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 21 Mar 94

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH today carries an editorial on the peace process and the importance of Arab coordination. It says: It has been proven beyond a doubt that when there is a unified Arab position on basic pan-Arab issues, the Arab nation can score major achievements. It has also been proven that any penetration of the Arab position from any direction for any reason will definitely harm everyone. This is absolutely clear from the Oslo agreement and what has followed.

AL-BA'TH adds: Had Arab coordination remained as it had been at the beginning of the peace talks itwould certainly have been in the interest of the Arabs and, consequently, in the interest of the establishment of a just, comprehensive peace.

AL-BA'TH indicates that what matters now is not when the peace talks will resume, but how Israel will comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy so that the peace process will be brought to a successful end leading to a just, comprehensive peace, which is needed in the region. The paper believes that the responsibility for achieving this lies with the cosponsors of the peace process, specifically the United States, being the initiator of the peace process.

AL-BA'TH stresses Syria's readiness to continue peace efforts. It indicates that Syria has offered all that is possible to ensure the continuation of that process in order to arrive at a comprehensive solution.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: When Syria called for a meeting of the Arab parties directly concerned with the peace process, it did so out of its faith in joint Arab action and its absolute realization that coordination and faithful commitment will thwart any Israeli attempt to effect another penetration like the Oslo agreement. Besides, coordination in itself can achieve at least a minimum level of Arab aspirations.

In an editorial on the UN Security Council resolution on the Hebron massacre and the chance that the resolution has provided for the resumption of the peace talks, TISHRIN says: Undoubtedly, UN Security Council Resolution 904 on the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre has provided a new opportunity to resume the peace talks. In turn, this will boost the international arrangements and measures to protect our Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories, and will prevent the recurrence of spiteful crimes and massacres by the settlers with the support of the Israeli Army against the Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories.

TISHRIN continues: The Hebron massacre and the subsequent confrontations and events have proven to the entire world the need to end the Israeli occupation and to arrive at a just, comprehensive peace in accordance with the Madrid conference formula away from any procrastination and obstacles. Thus, Israel must adopt practical measures to protect and ensure the security of the Palestinians. We also demand that it disarm the settlers, give up its provocative and extortionist stands, and seriously contribute toward activating the peace process by recognizing the facts and objectives of this process and responding to the UN resolutions, the Madrid conference formula, and the principle of trading land for peace.

TISHRIN adds: Undoubtedly, the chances that were provided for the peace process, particularly during the talks, have been greatly narrowed after the Hebron massacre. Safeguarding the peace process and extricating it from the impasse to which it has been driven requires, more than ever before, a public Israeli acknowledgement in advance that only a full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories can ensure the achievement of a just, comprehensive peace and regional security, stability, and calm.

TISHRIN stresses Syria's eagerness to continue coordination among the Arab parties to the peace process and its call for a meeting for consultations prior to the resumption of the talks. The paper explains that the Arabs, especially Syria, have always been advocates of right and justice, seriously and honestly working to achieve a just, comprehensive peace. However, Israel has met all this with nothing but more maneuvers and circumvention of the objectives of peace. Had Israel been, like the Arabs, serious at the Madrid conference and had it showed commitment to the formula of that conference, the Hebron massacre would not have taken place and all this violence and terrorism would not have prevailed in the occupied territories, which have turned into battlefields in which Arab citizens are being slaughtered by the gunfire of the occupiers. Nor would southern Lebanon have suffered destruction, bombardment, and displacement of its population as a result of the brutal Israeli aggressions.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: While awaiting the true and full implementation of Resolution 904, it must be emphasized that Israel is required, now more than ever before, to respond to all bases and requirements of peace, headed by full withdrawal from the occupied territories. Securing such an Israeli response is both an international and a U.S. responsibility.

Syria, Lebanon Ease Border Activity of Citizens

JN1903174594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] The Syrian Arab side led by Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah, and the Lebanese side led by

Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij, held a round of talks at noon today attended by members of the two delegations.

At the start of the meeting, Dr. Harbah welcomed Mirhij and his delegation. He noted the steps and measures already realized in security cooperation and coordination and border activities, especially in immigration, passports, and customs. He emphasized Syria's eagerness to develop bilateral cooperation in the operation of the two ministries in the interests of the Arab people of the two sisterly countries and in implementation of the Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination Treaty.

Bisharah Mirhij then thanked Dr. Harbah and the members of the Syrian delegation. He hailed the bilateral fraternal relations and cooperation. He emphasized his ministry's eagerness to implement all the agreements signed by the two countries, especially in the field of security cooperation.

The two sides discussed all issues relating to the activities of the two ministries and ways to develop them in the interest of citizens of both countries. They expressed satisfaction with the measures recently adopted by the two sides in the field of internal affairs.

The officials talks concluded this afternoon. They were attended by Nasri Khuri, secretary general of the Syrian-Lebanese Higher Council and members of both delegations. The two sides signed the joint meeting minutes. These allow Lebanese citizens who do not carry passports or identity cards to enter Syria using individual registration certificates issued by competent authorities.

In order to complete the steps and measures adopted by previous meetings of the two ministries, it was agreed to facilitate movement across borders in response to the desire of citizens in the two sisterly countries. As a result, the Syrian Arab side presented designs for a building for borders authorities of both sides. The designs were presented to the Lebanese side for study and comment.

The minutes also include facilitating the stay of citizens in both countries. The minutes of meetings held in Damascus on 27 April 1993 were emphasized. The minutes approved reciprocity concerning the stay of Syrian citizens in Lebanon and Lebanese citizens in Syria.

Harbah and Mirhij exchanged fraternal speeches on this occasion. They expressed their pleasure at signing the minutes. They emphasized that the steps agreed on concerning bilateral relations are absolute evidence of the close relations between the two countries in all fields, in implementation of the instructions of leader President Hafiz al-Asad and President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

The Lebanese minister left Damascus this evening.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Delivers New Year's Address to Nation

LD2003222394 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Mar 94

[New Year address by President Borhanoddin Rabbani; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] With full confidence and earnest belief we say that the people of Afghanistan, by the blessing of Almighty God, will overcome the difficulties and will succeed in defeating conspiracies and intrigues; and peace and security will be restored in every corner of the country as wished and desired by the people. With firmness and steadfastness we will repair the destruction left by the fighting and will realize the (?plan) for the country's economic revival and reconstruction. It should be mentioned that the Islamic State of Afghanistan is at a satisfactory level of having strength and power and is able [word indistinct] to stop [the enemy advances]. The Armed Forces of the Islamic state are enjoying high combative morale and powerful military preparedness. The past months' experience clearly demonstrates this fact: [words indistinct] of Kabul, clearing Konduz Province, districts of Anderab, Khenjan, and Doshi in Baghlan Province, as well as Ghowrmach District and some regions in Farab Province, of seditious elements and rebels, are vivid examples in this respect. Despite all the abilities and preparedness, the Islamic state follows the strategy of talks and understanding and rejects a military solution to the issues.

At this time, when the world has entered into a new stage of coexistence and understanding, a way must be sought for the fundamental solution of issues by talks in a peaceful manner. On the basis of these beliefs and thoughts the Islamic state emphasizes the principle of talks and understanding with the (?respective) Jehadi forces. Believing in the notion that people are the real heir [words indistinct] the people have a right to decide about their country and future leadership. During the period of the Islamic sovereignty the state has always paid respect to this principle and has always followed it in its actions.

Dear Compatriots, in order to get out of the present condition and for the sake of saving people from pain and sorrow, preventing further destruction of their homes by deadly rockets, and in respecting and following the principle of [words indistinct], the state pays respect to the will of people concerning the country's future leadership. We believe that a [word indistinct] decision-making assembly of the people delegates representing the will and views of the people and elected by a method that is acceptable to the relevant sides, is to be set up in the country as soon as possible. [passage indistinct]

Starting from the first day of 'Id al-Fitr the state has declared a unilateral 15-day-long cease-fire in Kabul city so that the peace delegations can work and accelerate their efforts on this path in a secure atmosphere away from threat. We have also invited the United Nations and the conference of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers to supervise the proceedings of convocation and activities of this assembly to make sure of its freedom of action. With pleasure I was informed that a UN delegation, led by esteemed Mahmud Mestiri, will soon travel to Afghanistan. [words indistinct] the state is ready for every cooperation with the UN delegation in this respect.

Dear compatriots, for marking Nawroz [New Year Day] in a proper way, and in order to provide better conditions for the peace delegations enabling them to accelerate further their fruitful work [words indistinct], I declare the extension of the unilateral cease-fire in Kabul city for another two weeks. [passage omitted]

Government Warns Dostam Against Shelling Kabul

BK1803155494 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, there has been sporadic rocket firing on the capital, Kabul, from this morning. The Afghan Defense Ministry has recently warned that if the Dostam militia resorts to shelling Kabul, the government air force will take retaliatory action and the militia bases in and around Mazar-e Sharif will come under air strikes. However, there has been no report of any aerial action so far. Reports also say that there has been continuous exchange of artillery and rocket fire between rival factions in the northern province of Baghlan.

Council of Ministers Meet, Discuss Budget, Security

LD2003190694 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Chaired by esteemed Mowlawi Arsalan Rahmani, the deputy prime minister, the Council of Ministers held a meeting this morning. The Cabinet's press office reported to the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that, at this session, esteemed Mowlawi Arsalan Rahmani spoke briefly about the country's military-political situation and progress of work of the commissions working for the restoration of peace and security in the country. According to the session's agenda, organizational issues and future of [words indistinct], as well as the country's plan and budget for 1373 [beginning 21 March 1994] were discussed. The session decided [word indistinct] that under the direction of esteemed Dr. Hamidollah Tarzi, minister of state for economic affairs in the Cabinet, (?a mixed commission from) the Ministries of Finance, Planning, Labor, and Social Affairs is to prepare the draft budget for 1373 and then present it to the Council of Ministers by 9 April after consultation with the ministries and departments and in consideration of the country's economic situation [words indistinct] and principles of administration.

India

Pakistan Reportedly To Close Consulate in Bombay

BK2003124594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Pakistan has decided to close down its Consulate General office in Bombay with immediate effect. The Indian high commissioner in Islamabad has been called by the Foreign Ministry and informed of its decision.

Editorial: U.S. 'Has Tilted So Much' Toward Pakistan

BK2003071894 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 12 Mar 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Prime Minister's Firm Stand"]

[Text] If U.S. Senator Larry Pressler is quoting Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao correctly and if the prime minister is not refuting his claims, then Rao's assertions on defense policy can be described as the most important statement of his term—the most important because the statement is directly related to India's nuclear policy. Since the prime minister has explained his viewpoint to Pressler and spoken on the controversy currently raging in the United States on the Pressler Amendment, there can be no other meaning to his alleged statement. After assuming the reins of power, the Clinton administration has tilted so much toward Pakistan that the President—restless to resume military aid to Pakistan—considers the Pressler Amendment as a thorn in his way. The amendment provides that Pakistan will not be eligible to receive U.S. military aid unless and until the U.S. President certifies that Islamabad is not pursuing its program to manufacture an atom bomb. It was on this very ground that the former President George Bush had stopped military aid to Pakistan. It will now be difficult for Clinton to certify, contrary to his predecessor's decision, that Pakistan is not pursuing a nuclear bomb program. In the meantime, contrary to the above, many facts have come to light that dispel any doubts about Pakistan's ability and intention to manufacture a nuclear bomb. Meanwhile, the Lockheed company is increasing pressure on President Clinton to allow the supply of F-16 aircraft to Pakistan. This proves that, after failing in its bid to repeal the Pressler Amendment, the Clinton administration has now thought of formulating the policy of a one-time waiver of the Pressler Amendment to allow the supply of F-16 planes to Pakistan and later making the amendment operative again.

I is apparent that with the help of this policy, a sheer humbuggery, the Clinton administration wants to make Pakistan stronger than India by getting rid of the Pressler Amendment, which will only result in the revival of the arms race in the Indian Subcontinent. The policy also tacitly encourages Pakistan to manufacture an atom bomb. India has thus far adopted the policy of not making any nuclear weapon. In spite of this, India has not yet signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] because it thinks NPT is unfair to the nonnuclear states. However, if the United States chooses to patronize Islamabad's nuclear policy on the pretext of supplying F-16 aircraft to Pakistan, then India will be forced to review its nuclear options, and this is the very meaning of Prime Minister Rao's alleged statement. If read in the context of our government's disinterestedness in Raphel's planned visit to India, the home minister's two warnings to the United States in parliament, and the successful role played by the Indian delegation at Geneva, one can derive the message that India's future attitude toward the U.S. can be firm and admonitory. Anything contrary will depend solely on the U.S. behavior.

Commentary on U.S. Laxness Toward Pakistan A-Bomb

BK2103093794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Commentary by defense analyst Udhay Bhaskar Reddy]

[Text] The report in the prestigious LOS ANGELES TIMES, better known as L.A. TIMES, that Pakistan has managed to build six to 12 Hiroshima-type bombs as part of its clandestine nuclear weapons program is significant for two reasons. In the first instance, it is not the number of bombs that Pakistan has stashed away in the basement that is germane. The United States was aware as early as in 1987 that Pakistan was embarked upon a determined clandestine nuclear weapons program and had accurate estimates about how much fissile grade material Islamabad had stockpiled. However, Washington preferred to pretend that it did not know as part of the Cold War charade.

What the L.A. TIMES story does is to draw attention to the many promises and pledges broken by Pakistan in its dealings with the United States over military aid to its clandestine nuclear weapons program. This is the first important inference, namely that in the past, whether it was in 1981 or 1985, the supply of lethal modern military gadgetry by the United States has not deflected Pakistan from its single-minded pursuit of a covert nuclear weapons program. That a respected U.S. daily is saying this may be reflective of the growing public disenchantment within the United States over proliferation perplexities. The second significant aspect is the inside the L.A. TIMES story provides into the deep divisions within the U.S. establishment over the Pressler Amendment and its interpretation. As the report points out, many senior-most officials in the Clinton Administration appear to be keen to condone Pakistan's nuclear quest under ardent advocates of waiving the amendment. However, there are more perceptive and informed voices, including that of Senator Larry Pressler, who are seized with the enormity of this seemingly casual one-time waiver. It does appear that the Clinton team is deluding itself that a one-time waiver of the Pressler Amendment would induce Pakistan to cap its nuclear weapons program and that the proliferation problem in the region will then be resolved. Nothing could be further from the truth. Whether Pakistan has one bomb in the basement or 12, this is a level at which the United States hopes it will capped. But, as the North Korean and Iraqi examples have shown, clandestine nuclear programs do not lend themselves to satisfactory external monitoring, and in any case this capping will not assuage India's anxieties over a bomb in the neighboring basement where even the elected prime minister is not allowed to visit the nuclear facility, let alone control it.

International Conference on Tibet Opens in New Delhi

BK1903142894 Hong Kong AFP in English 1229 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] New Delhi, March 19 (AFP)—Calls for recognition of the Dalai Lama's government-in-exile and support for the Tibetan freedom struggle resounded at a global parliamentary conference on Tibet here Saturday.

Delegate after delegate voiced support for the cause of Tibetan independence from Chinese rule on the second day of the three-day convention, under way at a venue on the outskirts of the Indian capital.

Lord Ennais, a former British minister for home and overseas development and a member of the all-party parliamentary group for Tibet in Britain, urged the international community to extend recognition to the exile government.

He also called upon world governments to use their influence in the United Nations to help the Tibetan cause and end what he called the "last vestiges of colonialism."

It was the main theme of Saturday's proceedings at the conference, being attended by nearly 40 MPs from 23 countries and an equal number of Indian deputies.

Gonzalo Facio, a former foreign minister of Costa Rica and his country's ambassador to the United States, supported the call for recognition of the government-in-exile, based in the northern Indian town of Dharamsala.

"Such a recognition by governments will not immediately lead to the freedom of the Tibetan people but it will help them achieve the objective," said Facio.

"I am all in favour of it. I think governments will start doing it," he said.

The Dalai Lama, supreme spiritual leader of six million Tibetans, has lived in exile in India since fleeing his homeland in 1959 after an abortive uprising against Chinese rule.

His government-in-exile is presently recognised by no country. His host India, which is home to some 100,000 of his followers, also treats Tibet as a part of China.

But the sentiments expressed at the parliamentary conference reflected the growing world support for recognition of the exile government, said Tashi Wangdi, a Tibetan leader.

Delegates also said complete independence was the only solution to the Tibetan issue.

"The root of all problems (in Tibet) is the Chinese colonial rule in Tibet," said Norwegian MP Harald Ellefsen. "Bringing an end to that colonial rule will be the only fair and just solution."

Latvian representative Jurif Sinka said: "I hope China will find the courage, humility and generosity .. and set the Tibetan people free."

Polish delegate Henryk Wujec urged the Tibetans to struggle like the Polish Solidarity group had done against the Communist regime in Warsaw.

Leif Bergdahl of Sweden suggested that the convention send a delegation to Tibet and compile a report on the situation in the Himalayan region, overrun by Chinese troops in 1949.

The conference is being held in the shadow of the Dalai Lama's warning to China earlier this month that he may be forced to bow to hardline elements within the Tibetan movement if China does not respond to his moderate approach.

Tibetan delegate Karma Chophell said the Tibetans wanted nothing less than total freedom. "We are not seeking any autonomy. this should be very clear to everyone," he said.

Chophell said the Tibetans had realised after 14 years of contacts between the Dalai Lama and the Chinese authorities that Beijing was only biding time and was not interested in a solution.

"The final solution for all problems in Tibet is the complete independence of Tibet," he sad.

Deputies on Saturday also broke up into separate groups to discuss alleged human rights abuses in Tibet, environmental degradation and a perceived threat to Tibetan culture posed by a Chinese influx.

Iran

Khamene'i, President Deliver New Year Messages

LD2003212494 Tehran IRNA in English 2035 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 20, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, in his New Year message tonight said the Iranian nation is not only thinking of its own salvation but "our historical movement is creating a new civilization".

He said: "We are building a civilization, whose main foundations are culture, insight, wisdom and the perfection of human thought."

The leader's message at 23:58 hours local time, ushered in the new calendar year, 1373 [21 March] of the solar Hijra, which is in official use in Iran and Afghanistan instead of the Gregorian Christian calendar (1994).

Monday the 1st of Farvardin is the vernal or spring equinox, a day celebrated as 'Nowroze' or New Year Day in Iran and several other countries.

Ayatollah Khamene'i laid stress on ethical values and commitment to work in view of the fact that Iran enjoys a new system, lofty ideals and important objectives "which appeal to every just person.

"The Iranian people with their bright culture rooted in history together with abundant material wealth, should under the circumstances, bring about ethical promotion", he added.

Terming ethics and self-reform as "one of the secrets of the human move towards perfection", the leader said: "Whoever we are, and whatever our degree of knowledge, wisdom and perfection, we must supplicate to God to help us move towards further perfection".

He also urged the nation to respect social regulations at all levels, and referring to commitment to work and discipline as "two important and essential factors in individual and social life", said the efforts of a nation dedicated to work always yield good results and guarantee the welfare of society.

Ayatollah Khamene'i praised the families of the martyrs of the revolution and the imposed war, as well as the disabled, the former POWs and war veterans.

He also saluted the soul of the father of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni.

In the use of the resources of the country mines and industries have been activated and strengthened, and today Iran is an exporter of steel, copper and aluminum, three major elements for the industrialized world, he added.

Rafsanjani pointed out that exports of the country during this period has almost quadrupled, and "if this movement continues, the second plan, God willing, can make us to a large extent independent of oil revenues...I think such successes are mainly because of the supports of the people and their presence on the scene."

He said that for youth this year and in the future years there are new programmes, because "from the point of view of population our country is a young country, and our young forces require guidance and help so that they will be able to pass the course of the revolution well."

The hojjat ol-eslam lauded the effective role played by Iran's Muslim women in the era of the revolution, and said "grounds for their added activity in the social affairs and this policy will continue to be exercised so that this year from the point of attention to the spiritual needs of our youths and especially women we will have a successful year."

He was all praise for the Armed Forces and the unknown soldiers who serve the country and said their vigilance and sacrifice, saw Iran come out with flying colours during the era of holy defense (1980-88).

The president spoke of big accomplishment in the heavy industries field and the procurement of raw materials for plants such as steel and petrochemicals.

"We supplied all kinds of our needs for minerals, most of them can stand on their feet. We can control the market up to some degree, and we hope the shop keepers and the respectable traders will cooperate with us and will consider equity. We, too, will support them.

"Of course, we agree with their balanced profit, and God willing, we will provide them with administrative facilities, especially for the people active in exports."

He was hopeful that "with the support of self-sacrificing people and with the presence on the scene of the war disabled and the former POWs and their proud families and with the efforts of those who work for the people with sincerity," Iran is fully geared up to welcome the second five year plan and to embark on the tasks ahead.

He said "fortunately, in the last weeks of this past year foreign exchange constraints that had been created because of the fall of the oil price were removed, and in the coming year we will live without any constraints. Next year we will find a chance to have more power on the market."

Turning to problems on the world scene, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said the Islamic society is having much headache.

"Still in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kashmir, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Karabakh, Iraq, Somalia and many other places Muslims have difficulties and this indicates the spite world arrogance has towards Muslims and Islam."

He said Iran was trying its best to help Muslims and will continue to contribute towards the resolving of their problems.

"Our foreign policy is nowhere clashes and strife, and I think problems can be solved by negotiations, peacefully and with cooperation," he was confident [sentence as received].

Velayati Discusses Syrian Ties, Regional Issues

JN1803194594 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 14-20 Mar 94 pp 22-24

[Interview with Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati by Zaki Shihab in Tehran; date not given]

[Text] [Shihab] Last week, you invited the foreign ministers of the Islamic states to an extraordinary meeting to discuss the implications of the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron. What can the Islamic states' foreign ministers offer other than a statement of condemnation and denunciation?

[Velayati] I have asked the chairman of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] and the Pakistani foreign minister to call for an extraordinary conference of the Islamic states' foreign ministers. We are still working to convene this meeting. I believe the Islamic nation must express its attitude in this regard, and condemn what has happened in Hebron.

We are seeking a unified position. For what has happened to the Palestinians in the occupied territories pains us all. We must take deterrent, firm, and decisive positions that make whoever entertains the notion of encroaching upon the Islamic nation experience a great deal of hesitation before he embarks on such encroachments.

For more than half a century, the Palestinian people have continued to suffer from massacres at the hands of the Zionists, not to mention the harsh treatment accorded to them. We must learn from our Islamic history and support all Muslims who have come under the pressure of their enemies.

[Shihab] What can you offer the victims of the massacre, other than prayers?

[Velayati] There are various means of extending support. The most important form of support is political support, as well as the application of international pressure on the aggressor. When we speak of such means of support, we do not exclude other means of support.

[Shihab] Such as what?

[Velayati] I do not want to divulge the measures that I have in mind, and what we, as Islamic states, can do to mitigate the Palestinians' sufferings. Some of the measures we will take will be confidential.

[Shihab] Iran has opposed the peace agreement the PLO and Israel signed in Washington in September 1993. Why have you opposed the agreement? Will you take a similar position if Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan sign similar agreements with Israel?

[Velayati] Well, when we express such a position toward this agreement, this means that we do not approve of a certain policy. But, as you know, our opposition to such agreements does not mean that we will have disputes with the countries to which we are bound by strong ties, or that we will sever our ties with them.

We maintain strong relations with Syria. We have communicated to our Syrian friends in no uncertain terms that we are opposed to the agreement or whatever has to do with making peace with Israel.

We know Syria has its own thoughts on this particular issue and it is playing a clear role in the anti-Zionist effort. However, we realize Syria is coming under intense pressure not only in regard to its position on the Israeli occupation of the Golan Heights but in regard to south Lebanon as well.

If we understand Syria's position, this is not to say that we will support whatever agreement it signs with Israel. Syria has its own clear, independent policy. The same goes for us.

[Shihab] How did Syria respond to your observations about a possible agreement with Israel?

[Velayati] As I have already pointed out, we talked with our Syrian brothers frankly. At the same time, we are all aware of the support Syria has made available to the Palestinian cause in all areas. Syria continues to extend support to the Palestinian cause. You are aware that the 10 Palestinian factions opposed to the peace agreement with Israel are still active in Damascus.

[Shihab] Iranian news media said that after the al-Asad-Clinton summit, Syria would send an envoy to Tehran to brief you on the outcome. Did they send one?

[Velayati] No one came to Tehran.

[Shihab] Has Syria tried to mediate between Iran and the United States?

[Velayati] As I have said, Syria did not send any envoy to brief us on the talks between al-Asad and Clinton.

[Shihab] Why?

[Velayati] You must ask the Syrian brothers. I must point out, however, that there is no precedent for this. In the past two decades, there have been meetings between President al-Asad and former U.S. Presidents Ronald Reagan and Richard Nixon. Syria did not send an envoy to brief us on those talks.

[Shihab] We have been hearing for some time that President al- Asad will visit Tehran. Will the visit take place soon?

[Velayati] This is likely. The Iranian president. Hashemi- Rafsanjani, visited Damascus twice, but President al-Asad came here only once.

[Shihab] This month, or next month?

[Velayati] We have not yet decided on the proper time for this visit. Nonetheless, I believe it will be made in the near future.

[Shihab] Do you believe the military action that Hizballah and the Palestinian factions initiated from southern Lebanon will continue if Israel agrees to withdraw from there, and signs a peace agreement with the Lebanese Government?

[Velayati] I do not know, because the Palestinians and Lebanese will have to decide this for themselves. We do not want to force our own dictates on them. The Lebanese are engaged in acts of self-defense and waging a jihad to liberate their occupied territories. I do not know what will happen in the future.

[Shihab] Security in the Gulf is a critical and thorny issue for the countries of the region. How does Iran perceive its role in the region? To what extent is it willing to cooperate with its neighbors in this regard?

[Velayati] Safeguarding security in the Gulf region is a critical issue for all countries of the region. This issue is of strategic importance for all states, be they Iran, Iraq, or the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] members. I believe the six Gulf countries, namely, the six GCC members, may not, at present, agree to cooperate with Iraq in this regard. Nonetheless, we believe in the importance of this cooperation to promote stability and security. If there is tension for whatever reason, we all are dutybound to work to defuse tension through understanding and dialogue.

[Shihab] Since you are speaking of defusing tension through understanding, I would like to pose the following question to you. Regarding your dispute with the United Arab Emirates [UAE] over the islands of Abu Musa, Tunb al-Sughra, and Tunb al-Kubra, you were reported to have said that there is a third party that seeks to maintain tension in the region in general, and between the UAE and Iran in particular. Can you name this party?

[Velayati] It is not a single party. Some seek to take advantage of aggravated tension in the region in order to create additional reasons and justifications for the presence of some Western powers in the Gulf region. These parties are creating problems and promoting tension among states.

[Shihab] Are you planning to visit Iraq soon, as some reports have said, in the aftermath of a recent visit to Tehran by a senior Iraqi official?

[Velayati] This is contingent upon the success of the steps undertaken to implement Security Council Resolution 598. The most important things we expect in this regard is swapping prisoners of war, redrawing the disputed border, which was the scene of a devastating and wicked war, and various other measures, as well.

The materialization of my visit to Baghdad is largely contingent upon progress in resolving the issues I have just mentioned. I hope Iraq will honor its commitments toward these issues so we may take a new step toward the future.

[Shihab] What about your relations with Saudi Arabia and an exchange of visits and envoys?

[Velayati] In the past, there were dark clouds in relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran. However, if we look at the course of these relations recently, we will find improvement in these relations.

Our relations with Saudi Arabia are positive; we are looking forward to developing and strengthening them in the future.

[Shihab] A senior Iranian official described the establishment of a Kurdish state in northern Iraq as the creation of a new Israel that is rejected by Iran. Why? Are you worried about the strong cooperation between Western countries and some major Kurdish parties in the region?

[Velayati] We fully believe in the importance of maintaining the unity of Iraq—territory and people—and its independence, regardless of who is running its affairs. Iran believes the continuation of Iraq, with its present and recognized borders, is important to the stability and security of the region. If anyone tries to set up an independent state in northern or southern Iraq this will be considered a threat to Iran's security and we will face this with firmness.

[Shihab] What obstructs any improvement in your relations with the Egyptian Government? What is your opinion about the accusations that Iran supports some extremist Islamic movements in Egypt?

[Velayati] Fortunately, the Egyptian interior minister recently announced that there is no evidence of Iran's support for the fundamentalist Islamic movements or of its interference in Egypt's internal affairs. In the past, we were victims of such accusations. We were the target of severe media campaigns by the Egyptian papers. We, meanwhile, denied such accusations. The conviction of the Egyptian political leadership that Iran has not practiced any illegal activities in Egypt or interfered in Egypt's internal affairs is an important sign regarding the return of Egyptian- Iranian relations to normal.

[Shihab] Does this mean that we will see improvement in bilateral relations very soon, if not an exchange of official visits?

[Velayati] Yes, I believe this, because it has been proven that we are innocent of all charges leveled against us.

[Shihab] When will the UAE foreign minister visit Tehran to discuss the islands crisis, especially since a previously scheduled visit was canceled?

[Velayati] I extended in the past, and now I am repeating, an open invitation to my UAE counterpart to visit Tehran at a time he sees as appropriate. I said in the past that Iran is very eager to resolve any misunderstanding with any of its neighbors, especially the UAE, through understanding and dialogue.

[Shihab] You speak about the possibility of reaching a solution, and on other occasions you extend Iran's sovereignty over Gulf waters.

[Velayati] What the Iranian Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) did was to ratify a law approved by most countries. The UAE adopted a similar decision. What you spoke about deals with navigation rights, nothing more, nothing less. We will continue to be eager to coexist peacefully with our neighbors.

[Shihab] Iran's relations with the West, and the United States and Britain in particular, continue to be bad. What do these countries want from you?

[Velayati] This question should be addressed to the United States and other countries.

[Shihab] What do you want from the United States?

[Velayati] We want the United States to stop interfering in our internal affairs. This is a basic issue. We want the United States to stop besieging our economy, return our frozen money, and provide us with spare parts for the weapons that we brought from U.S. factories.

[Shihab] Do Iran and Turkey cooperate or compete to spread their influence in the central Asian Islamic republics?

[Velayati] We and Turkey are members of ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] and the central Asian republics are members of this organization. Therefore, it is natural that our relations with Turkey are governed by cooperation in the interest of our two countries and the central Asian Islamic republics. In fact there are other things. Turkey may have concerns that differ from ours.

[Shihab] What do you do in order to resolve the crisis in Afghanistan and the rivalry taking place between the Mujahidin?

[Velayati] First of all, I want to say that we all pray for the end of fighting and for putting an end to war, destruction, and innocent victims. Secondly, we are doing our best in order to bring the different viewpoints of the belligerent factions closer together, because Afghanistan faced total destruction, first at the hands of the defunct Communist regime, then by the destructive war between brothers.

[Shihab] The Iranian capital was packed with foreign visitors last week. In addition to the Chinese deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Indian foreign minister, and Russian deputy foreign minister and others were here.

[Velayati] And the envoy of [Afghan President] Rabbani.

[Shihab] At the meetings between these foreign visitors and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president presented the idea of cooperation with their countries to form a regional force in Asia that solves conflicts between the countries of the region. Do you have information on what the president presented concerning this idea?

[Velayati] We have begun practical steps to shape up ideas that encourage the strong and leading Asian countries to cooperate together in all fields. The first step is that the strong and politically active countries work out a preliminary concept on this cooperation, and later we will ask the other countries to join this alliance or grouping.

I want to say that a leader of one of the central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union was the one who presented this idea to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani was convinced of this idea soon after it was presented to him, and used the chance of the visits to Tehran by foreign ministers of two important countries, China and India, to reiterate his support for the idea. The idea received good attention by the Indian and Chinese guests.

Iran previously expressed to Indian and Chinese officials its readiness for cooperation in order to implement these ideas through forming special committees. These committees will explain the concepts of each side regarding the working structure of such grouping or alliance and the role which it could play in the future to contribute to stability, progress, and the prosperity of the Asian nations.

[Shihab] Observers have noticed a change in Iranian foreign policy over the past three years, especially toward some neighborly European countries. Does this mean that Iran has gone back on the slogan of exporting the revolution and the party which is not with Iran is against it?

[Velayati] The Iranian Government has benefited from its previous experiments and began to follow a clear policy. We do not deny that this took some time. Following the success of the revolution, we were exposed to huge pressure from various sides. Therefore, our policy was not 100-percent sound and successful. Now that we have gained experience, we have begun to lay down firm bases for our policy. Any observer can judge the experiment of our revolution if we are compared with other revolutions. Despite this, I can say that we have passed through various stages: The first stage was represented by our endeavor to reach stability; and the second stage was represented by our endeavor in the fields of construction and planning.

Commentaries on U.S. Pressure on UN Hebron Resolution

English-Language Cast Comments

LD1903202894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Eventually, after a lapse of three weeks since the massacre of Palestinians in al-Khalil, the UN Security Council yesterday passed Resolution 904 condemning the genocide.

In the wake of the Palestinian worshippers' massacre by a radical Zionist and his collaborators, last 27 February, and the martyrdom of more than 60 Palestinians and wounding of many others, the world public opinion once again observed the criminal and inhuman character of the Zionist regime.

The dimensions of the Zionist crime in al-Khalil went to the extent that the Security Council, in its capacity as an international institution, was expected to quickly and properly react to it. But, similar to earlier predictions, U.S. pressures, and the excuse that the Security Council's posturing should not jeopardize the peace process, diverted the Council from its main course, which was required to be taken in the wake of the al-Khalil crime.

Political circles have described the delay in the issuance of the Security Council resolution as the result of harmony between the U.S. and Israel over encouraging and also compelling the Palestinians and the Arabs to attend the peace talks.

Under such conditions, Security Council Resolution 904, which was unanimously approved paragraph-wise and without any voting, yesterday, gave America the opportunity to cast a vote of abstention. Thus the vote of abstention came in case of paragraphs two and six of the instruction to the resolution, that expressed concern over the consequences of the Palestinians' deaths in the occupied lands and the need for maintaining security of the Palestinian nation, and also stressed the necessity for enforcing the fourth Geneva Convention in the territories under Israeli occupation.

Political experts, despite the stress that has been laid in resolution 904 on the need for Israel to provide the Palestinian safety and security in the occupied lands, and also Tel Aviv's ban on the Zionist settlers' illegal and violent acts, and a request to America and Russia to extend necessary support to implementation of the resolution, have expressed pessimism over any change in the current situation of the occupied lands. They believe that the record of the Zionist regime, in its capacity as a regime fully backed by America, will bring forth nothing but aggression, breach of human rights, and suppression in the occupied territories.

Arabic-Language Cast Comments

NC1903214394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] At last, in its Resolution 904 adopted yesterday the UN Security Council condemned the massacre of the Palestinians at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque. The massacre, in which over 65 Palestinians were killed on 25 February at the hands of extremist Zionists, has focused worldwide public attention on Zionist barbarity and on the grave dimensions of that ugly crime. The UN Security Council was supposed to adopt a quick and decisive resolution. However, with feeble excuses and pretexts, such as the need for the Security Council to avoid adopting any stand that might jeopardize the Middle East peace talks, the United States forced the UN Security Council to act outside the legal framework within which it was supposed to act toward such events and developments.

It is evident that all this delay in the issuance of the resolution of condemnation by the UN Security Council and the clear U.S.-Zionist coordination were a planned affair designed to encourage the Arabs and Palestinians and force them to rejoin the peace talks.

The United States abstained on the second and sixth paragraphs, which affirm the grave consequences that might arise from the continuing heavy casualties among the Palestinians in the occupied territories and the need to safeguard the security and safety of the Palestinians through the application of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Although the new resolution affirms the need to safeguard the safety of the Palestinians inside the occupied territories and the need for the Zionist authorities to prevent the inhabitants of the Israeli settlements from carrying out acts of violence against the Palestinians, and although the Security Council calls on Russia and the United States to take the necessary practical measures to ensure the implementation of Resolution 904, it is unlikely that any essential change will occur in the current course of events inside the occupied territories. The Zionist entity entirely depends on U.S. support. Therefore, this entity will not hesitate to continue its ugly crimes, as it has been doing for over 40 years.

TV Report: U.S. Imposes Changes

LD1903164194 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Three weeks after the massacre of the Palestinian worshipers in Hebron, the UN Security Council, adopting a resolution which is devoid of any enforcement guarantees, has merely denounced the Zionists' crime.

The elimination of the name of Jerusalem from the occupied territories in the implementation articles of the resolution and voting for each section of each paragraph of the resolution are some of what Washington has imposed on the Security Council.

Two preliminary sections of the Security Council resolution say that the Council was shocked by the horrendous massacre of the Palestinian worshipers at Abraham's Mosque and is concerned over the Palestinian casualties in the occupied territories as a consequence of that massacre.

America was the only state which did not agree with the total text of the resolution and abstained from voting for its first two sections.

MKO Reports 'Extensive' Antiregime Operations

NC1803215194 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1800 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] On the eve of Nowruz [Iranian New Year, 21 March] and the advent of spring, the heroes of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] carried out an extensive series of operations in memory of the martyr mojahed Majidreza Ebrahimi and have dealt severe blows to the command centers of the bases and the repressive organizations of the inhuman enemy all over the country.

The MKO headquarters inside the country sent the following first brief report of this series of victorious operations all over Iran:

1. The arteries of the oil installations of the filthy clerical regime at the pumping station of Musiyan, which was the site of 33 explosions in nine oil pipelines, have been cut off.

2. Five oil transporting pipelines were the scene of 23 explosions in the Bayat oil region south of Dehloran, which began at 0500 on Friday morning 18 March. The massive flames that are reaching the skies are a small sample of the repressed fury of the Iranian people seething against the filthy clerics who in the 15 years of their rule pillaged more than $200 billion of the oil income and filled their own pockets. At the time this report was received, the rising flames of the people's

resistance were still reaching the skies and could be seen from a distance on the horizon by the deprived people of the region whose natural and human resources have been plundered by the clerics' government.

3. The heroes of the MKO have attacked the Kharrazi support base for the 14th Division of the Khomeyni Revolution Guards Corps north of Khorramshahr at 0130 on Friday 18 March with mortars and destroyed it. In this heroic attack, the extensive installations of the support center of the repressive enemy's Corps have been destroyed by the infiltration and epic-making attack by the mojahedin. The maintenance and repair centers, ammunition dumps, and air defense units were hit by mortars and were set on fire. In this valiant attack, more than 150 Revolution Guards of destruction and darkness were killed and wounded and dozens of armed vehicles of various kinds were destroyed. The intensity of the attack was such that the commanders of the enemy's Corps constantly issued appeals from Ahvaz for assistance, moaned and cried "At least send us some ambulances," and sent the message: "For God's sake, send us help. We have been battered."

4. Infiltration and extensive epic-making attacks on the tactical base of the 21st anti-imam Reza Brigade, the separate brigade of the anti-popular Guards Corps, in the vicinity of the Hoseyniyeh station on the Ahvaz-Khorramshahr road took place at 0100 on Friday morning, 18 March. In these operations and heroic attacks, which were carried out by using a variety of weapons, more than 60 guards of destruction and darkness along with their commanders were killed and the remainder fled in a despicable manner. The buildings of the command center, the brigade headquarters, auditorium, [word indistinct] and ammunition depots, along with all other installations of the base, as well as scores of military vehicles were set on fire and destroyed. The 21st anti-imam Reza has a long record of being a base for suppression and slaughter of defenseless people, especially in Kordestan.

5. A bold attack on the command center of a battalion of the 21st anti-imam Reza separate brigade in the vicinity of Istgah-e Ahu, on the Ahvaz-Khorramshahr railroad route took place at 0100 Friday morning on 18 March. In this courageous attack, which took place with various arms, more than 300 guards of destruction and darkness were killed and the installations of the command center of the battalion, including the headquarters, logistics, and telecommunications buildings, along with their vehicles, were completely destroyed.

6. Clashes with the lackeys of the 740th Task Battalion of the 84th Division of Khorramabad under the command of the criminal clerics in the southeast of Naft-Shahr, took place at 0930 on Thursday 17 March. In this epic-making clash the MKO heroes [words indistinct] who have a prolonged record of killing and tormenting the innocent people of the region faced their nemesis, and taught them an unforgettable lesson. The lackey Major Mohammad Bigleri, deputy commander of the 740th Battalion, was among those killed.

Following these epic-making operations, the decrepit enemy, which was terrified by the continued attacks of the mojahedin and the uprising of the people of the region, set up a headquarters for [words indistinct].

7. Mines and booby traps were laid on the military highway of Sumar-Sarneh in Ilam in the early hours of Friday, 18 March, using various kinds of mines and explosive traps on the path of the lackeys and patrol vehicles of the repressive law enforcement forces of the enemy. This resulted in the destruction of some vehicles and the death of scores of repressive mercenaries.

8. Booby traps and mines were set on the military highway of Sumar-Salehabad on 16 March in order to trap the [words indistinct] armed mercenaries of the enemy. As a result of the explosion of the mines and traps, at the time of this report, some military vehicles of the inhuman enemy were destroyed and scores of the enemy's lackeys were killed and wounded.

9. Traps and mines were set on the military highway of 'Ayn Khosh and Chamhendi on Wednesday night, 16 March, and on Friday morning, 18 March, by using various mines and traps of incendiary materials, which destroyed some military vehicles of the enemy and killed a number of repressive mercenaries.

10. Bombs were hurled at the center for mobilization, suppression, and espionage on Atash Avenue in the region of Lulwan in Esfahan on 7 March. The center was set ablaze and a number of the basijis and repressive guards were wounded, which elicited the praise and joy of the people.

11. A vehicle of the enemy's law enforcement forces' on the Bijvand-Ilam highway was (?attacked), killing its two occupants on 7 March.

12. Bombs were thrown at the site of the gathering of a number of the repressive mercenaries on the Mohammadabad intersection in Mashhad on 7 March. Some of them were wounded.

13. Bombs were thrown at the station of one of the repressive lackeys at Takhti Avenue, Marand on 7 March.

14. A center for plunder and pillage affiliated with the Imam Khomeyni Committee was set on fire in the vicinity of (Kelachha-ye Gilan) on 7 March. This was strongly welcomed by the repressed workers and toilers of the region.

15. The stores and warehouses of goods plundered by repressive mercenaries in the village of Dehkar in Lahijan was set on fire on 8 March, which was a source of joy for all the villagers.

16. A blaze was ignited at the center of plunder and pilfering of the corrupt foundation, the so-called Martyrs' Foundation on Somayyeh Avenue in Tehran on 8 March. According to SALAM newspaper of 11 March, this building sustained damages worth more than 20 million rials.

17. Fire was set to a vehicle of the mercenaries at the Orumiyeh terminal on 9 March. The lackeys of the corps and the mobilization blocked the nearby roads and unsuccessfully tried to control the area.

18. Fire was set to the offices and meeting and communication centers of the repressive mercenaries on Hengam Avenue in Tehran on 9 March. KEYHAN reported on 14 March that this building burned for seven hours and the damage was more than 400 million rials.

19. A bomb was hurled at the antipopular mobilization base on Mahdiyeh Avenue in Hamadan on 9 March, which forced the inmates to flee in fear and elicited the support and welcome of the residents of the district.

20. The destruction of the vehicle of an accursed lackey on North Hafez avenue in Lahijan on 10 March which drew the praise and support of the residents.

21. A vehicle of the regime's mercenaries was destroyed [words indistinct]

22. Bombs were thrown at the headquarters of the Sunnis—one of the centers for the suppression of the Sunnis—on East Arash Avenue in Mashhad on 11 March. It was set on fire, which was immensely welcomed by the people in the district, especially our Sunni compatriots.

23. A vehicle of the lackeys was wrecked in the Babol beltway area on 11 March, which was immediately reported by the local people. The residents expressed their joy. The repressive lackeys then strove to arrest a group of people but released them after two days due to mounting social pressure and requests.

24. A lackeys' vehicle was destroyed in the center of Amol city on 12 March.

25. A bomb was thrown in the vicinity of the building of the regime's Voice and Vision of the clerics' regime in Bandar-e Torkamen on 12 March, which resulted in the immense welcome and joy of our compatriots on 'Id al-Fitr.

26. A vehicle belonging to the clerical regime's organization for plunder and pillage was damaged and destroyed on the Azadi Boulevard in Mashhad on 12 March.

27. A powerful bomb was exploded in the vicinity of the house of the accursed Friday imam of Hamadan on the Khajeh Rashid Boulevard on 13 March. This was accompanied by congratulations by all the people of the city.

28. A bomb was hurled at the base of the so-called mobilization and Revolution Guards resistance base at the eighth intersection in Sari on 13 March, which was set on fire and attracted much joy and enthusiasm by the local people. The lackey commander of the law enforcement forces of the clerics in Sari, Rowhaniyan, came to the Sari radio station at 0800 in the morning and appealed to the people in a ridiculous manner to maintain security in the city and asked them to keep an eye on their offspring.

29. A vehicle belonging to the judicial organization of the clerical regime was destroyed on the Ferdowsi Boulevard in Mashhad on 14 March.

30. A vehicle was destroyed [words indistinct] in Mashhad on 14 March.

31. The exploding of bombs and propaganda activities such as distribution of photos, tracts, placards, protest activities, and numerous gatherings in favor of the president of the resistance took place on the various streets and districts in Gachsaran, Mashhad, Esfahan, Shahreza, Shiraz, Tabriz, Orumiyeh, Someh-ye Sara, Chaboksar, Gonbad-e Kavus, Mahabad, Maku, and Tehran 9-16 March. [Words indistinct] took place when the inhuman enemy had announced an alert since 12 March for combating MKO operations in cities and various centers and was in a state of 100-percent alert since 16 March.

In the course of these successful series of country-wide operations, the heroes of the MKO—'Ali Nuri, 'Ali Kazemi, Behruz Majdabadi, Loqman Hajkhanian, 'Abdollah Towhidi, and Mohammadreza 'Edalatian—fulfilled their promise to God and the people and joined the caravan of eternal splendor of the freedom of the land of Iran. These proud martyrs are harbingers of good fortune and prosperity for this land and the messengers of a social and political Nowruz for the land of Iran.

CIA Reportedly Funding Secular Press in Turkey

LD1903162494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] America's intelligence and spying agency, the CIA, in order to encourage the press to increase their propaganda attacks on Islam, has provided $35 million of financial aid to the writers of the secular press in Turkey.

(BIKEK) newspaper, published in Istanbul, carries this report in today's edition, adding that, by making use of the CIA's financial assistance and the support of Western countries, Turkey's secular newspapers have started an extensive propaganda campaign among Turkey's secular circles against the Islamic-leaning Rafah [Prosperity] party.

Guardian Council Approves Budget Plan

LD1703124794 Tehran IRNA in English 0530 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 16, IRNA—The Guardian Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran approves the balanced budget plan for the new calendar year, 1373 (to start March 21) with a total amount of rls. 69,772.75 billion [rials].

In view of materialization of the figure envisaged as state revenues, the Majles approved the total budget rls 10,000 billion lower than proposed by the government.

The general budget of the government for the new year has been predicted at rls. 32,303.35 billion.

The experience of the past two years over non-materialization of state revenues as predicted by the budget plan, made the parliament adopt a realistic approach towards the figures in this year's budget plan and to consider parameters outside the country effective in state revenues and to base the revenues and state expenditure on realism.

Of the total state revenues set at rls. 30,048.9 billion from public and other resources, rls. 2,254.4 billion will be provided by special incomes of ministries and state institutions.

In view of the sharp fall in oil prices on the world market, the Majles decided to limit the income earned through sale of oil to dlrs [dollars] reduced at dlrs. 10.154 billion [as received]. If oil revenues go up during the year, the extra amount will be spent to repay government commitments in hard cash or to carry out some development plans.

In the calendar year of 1372 [ending 20 March 1994], the total amount of state revenues from oil sales was set at dlrs. 16.8 billion, of which according to Majles Vice-Speaker Hasan Rowhani Iran got dlrs. 4 billion lower than expected from the oil sales.

He said that in the course of the first development plan, Iran lost dlrs., 6.4 billion due to the fall in value of the U.S. dollar against other major currencies. Though the revenues in hard cash from oil sales are not much, but the Islamic Republic of Iran has reached understandings with the two main creditor banks of Japan and Germany to reschedule payment of dlrs. 4.6 billion, which is owed by Iranian companies to the Japanese amd German companies. Iran's schedulled commitments in the past year was reduced by 50 percent and it is expected that similar understandings would be reached with the creditors and the scheduled payments would be met and the growing demands for foreign currencies to pay the commitments would fall.

According to the new year budget plan, the Majles allowed the government to repay dlrs. 1,600 billion by the end of the year.

The Majles approved that dlrs. 800 million be spent on basic commodities including wheat, cooking oil, rice, meat, and sugar. The government was allowed to spend dlrs. 400 million to produce and import pharmaceuticals and milk powder.

The Majles also allocated dlrs. 30 million to be spent on higher specialized courses and dlrs. 80 million to provide students abroad with hard cash. The total amount of foreign currency stood at dlrs. 1,310 million.

In order to finance development projects such as dams and hydraulic power plants, dlrs 2.3 billion were set aside for the Energy Ministry while dlrs. 150 million was earmarked for the sugar-cane projects and related industries. The share of the fisheries was set at dlrs. 100 million through joint investment and buy-back scheme to carry out its development plans.

The Majles said that dlrs. 6 billion are to be spent on economic development plans of the country. The Majles said the Ministry of Energy is to supply 1,080 villages across the country with electricity, while the Ministry of Posts, Telegraph, and Telephones would set up telecommunications links in 500 villages.

The Construction Jihad Ministry is expected to supply 1,000 villages with drinking water, while the Ministry of Transport will improve railway services and construct 1,000 kms of new rural roads in the new year. Money coming from the sale of the shares of factories under the organization of development and renovation of national industries of Iran, will be paid to the Ministry of Education for spending on its development plans. Another rls. 10 billion expected to come from the sale of shares of the factories will enable the setting up of 70 technical and vocational centers. At least rls. 410 billion has been earmarked to carry out infrastructural plans in the deprived areas of the country.

Two-thirds of the income from taxes on imported cigarettes and 60 percent of the customs for export of pistachios will be channelled towards the Martyr Raja'i relief plan.

In order to finance health services, the Ministry of Health and Medical Education was given the go ahead to spent money earned through issuing of licences for sanitary-ware producing units, on modernizing of laboratories and improving the quality of pharmaceuticals.

Privatization has been envisaged in the new year's budget plan to a large extent. A considerable amount of money coming from the sale of shares of producing units under the industrial ministries will go towards social projects including those of the Ministry of Education. In other words, the budget for such projects will not be provided if the process of privatization does not continue in the course of the new year.

An important objective of the budget plan is to allocate state revenues in hard cash for basic projects in the oil, industry, energy, social welfare, education, health and other sectors for developing backward and remote areas of the country.

Pakistan

Opposition Leader Escapes Assassination Attempt

BK2003143594 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] The chief of the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] Awami National Party Begum Nasim Wali Khan escaped an assassination attempt while on her way from Wali Bagh village to Peshawar today. A press note issued by the NWFP home department in Peshawar said between 0730 and 0800 Begum Nasim Wali Khan along with her driver was proceeding in a vehicle from her village toward Peshawar. About three kms from her village on (Takhtwai- Razia) Road, her vehicle was reportedly signalled to stop by some armed men, who started firing simultaneously. The driver of the vehicle received minor injuries while Begum Nasim Wali Khan remained unhurt. On hearing the shots, the police mobile party, which was on routine patrol in the vicinity, immediately rushed to the spot. The accused attempted to escape. However, they were pursued and the police party succeeded in apprehending two of them along with two Klashnikovs within a matter of minutes. During the encounter with the police party, one of the accused sustained injuries. He has been admitted to hospital, where his condition is reported to be serious.

A special team has been constituted to investigated the case on top priority basis. The provincial government has also decided to institute a high-level judicial inquiry into the incident to be headed by a judge of the high court, for which the chief justice of Peshawar High Court has already been requested.

Islamabad: Signs of Rapprochement in Talks With U.S.

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[Text] Islamabad, March 18 (AFP)—Washington is showing signs of rapprochement with Islamabad in talks on the issue of nuclear non-proliferation and is reconsidering a ban on military sales to Pakistan, the Foreign Ministry said.

The talks have raised concern in New Delhi that closer relations between Washington and Islamabad could lead to an upset of the regional power equation.

A Pakistani Foreign Ministry official said here Thursday that Washington and Islamabad were engaged in "deep dialogue" on the subject of nuclear non-proliferation, a priority of US foreign policy in the region.

Neither Pakistan nor traditional rival India, which exploded a nuclear device in 1974, are signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and both suspect the other of developing atomic weapons.

The ongoing US-Pakistan talks coincide with reports of the willingness of the US administration to partially lift a ban on military and economic aid to Pakistan which was imposed in October 1990 following fears that Islamabad had embarked on a nuclear weapons program.

The ban was implemented under provisions of the Pressler amendment, named after US Senator Larry Pressler, which forbids military aid to Pakistan unless the president could certify Islamabad did not have nuclear weapons and was not trying to develop them.

But US officials on Tuesday said Washington may ease the ban to enable the delivery of 71 F-16 jet fighters, which were ordered from General Dynamics but suspended when the ban took effect, in return for a "verifiable" pledge that Pakistan will halt its nuclear program.

Islamabad has already paid for 38 of the aircraft.

Delivery of the aircraft would boost Pakistan's deteriorating air force, which is equipped with some 100 Mirage jets, about 100 Chinese-made F6 and F7 aircraft and 34 F-16s.

(In New Delhi, India's Air Chief Marshal S.K. Kaul was quoted Friday by The Statesman daily as saying that the "balance of power" in the region would change if Pakistan acquired the aircraft, whose long ranges enable them to carry out deep strike attacks.

("Those machines have been manufactured and are lying there. I have always maintained that they (the United States) will find some way of overcoming the Pressler amendment," the daily quoted him as telling reporters at a news conference in Bombay.

(The Indian air force chief did not spell out exactly how the military balance would be upset if Pakistan were to acquire the planes.

(He however spoke about India's difficulties in upgrading its Russian-built MiG-21 planes because of Russian reluctance to part with technology information following the breakup of the Soviet Union.

(His remarks followed concern expressed by Foreign Minister Dinesh Singh at the US proposal to dispatch the F-16s to Pakistan, with which India has fought three wars since independence in 1947.

("Does the United States want to encourage Pakistan to use nuclear weapons against India?" Dinesh Singh said this week.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, shortly after assuming office in October last year, said that former premier Nawaz Sharif had "capped" the country's nuclear programme and that she had decided to maintain that position.

A late Thursday report, quoting sources close to the foreign office, reiterated Islamabad's position and assured the Pakistani public that "any step taken will safeguard the national interest."

The report also claimed that the Pressler amendment had failed to achieve its objective of preventing arms proliferation, but had managed to contribute to Pakistan's conventional arms capabilities being "eroded.

Editorial: U.S. Pursues 'Even-Handed' Regional Policy

BK2103103794 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 21 Mar 94 p 7

[Editorial: "Turning Up the Heat on India"]

[Text] The statement by US Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, that India will not receive any concessions for its nuclear programme, will have been received in Islamabad with considerable relief. Christopher told a House subcommittee on appropriations that the US is pursuing an even-handed policy in South Asia, after Congressman James Moran asked some questions about Indian violation of human rights in occupied Kashmir and East Punjab. In recent months, the American in South Asia, and keeping a careful eye on relations between Pakistan and India. American policy-makers clearly see the region as a potential flash point, and have appointed a senior State Department man, Strobe Talbott, to watch the situation. Though generally considered an expert in US- Soviet relations, Talbott has probably been asked to observe the Pakistan-India situation because of his expertise in nuclear strategy and confidence building techniques between two hostile parties. Talbott is expected to visit Pakistan and India next month.

Talbott's new assignment is a clear indication of how seriously Washington is viewing the tension in South Asia. The worst nightmare for the American administration is a conventional confrontation between South Asia's two largest powers, which could escalate into a nuclear conflict. Christopher told the House subcommittee that the US wanted India to cap its nuclear programme, which India insists is for peaceful purposes despite concrete evidence that it is forging ahead not only with the development of nuclear weapons technology, but is also perfecting an indigenous delivery system. But the key difference between Pakistan and India, vis-a-vis the Pressler Amendment, which applies only to Pakistan and not to India, was a subject that Mr Christopher did not comment on when asked to do so by Congressman Moran. If the United States is truly committed to an equal, even-handed approach to the two countries, then the application of the Pressler Amendment to Pakistan will have to be examined.

New Delhi will have received the new about Christopher's statement with frigidity and some trepidation. There were also some questions about human rights violations in occupied Kashmir and Punjab to which Mr Christopher acknowledged that there were more "problems" in Indo-US relations are likely to deteriorate in this regard. There have been discernible shifts in US foreign policy regarding India over the past few months and it is becoming increasingly clear that American administration is no longer as gullible as it used to be. Pakistan had felt singled out by the US on several counts, with the general impression being that Washington was inclined favourably towards India on various issues. While Pakistan is still not off the hook, India is no longer being treated with myopic favouritism. A balanced American initiative in South Asia could go a long way in defusing the tension in the region. The key issue will, of course, be how even-handed American policy really will be. Anything less will be unacceptable and equally unsuccessful.

Army Contingent Returns From Somalia

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[Text] A contingent of Pakistani troops returned home this morning after completion of its tenure with the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Somalia. Another battalion of the Pakistan Army has replaced the troops with the UN Peacekeeping Force. Pakistani troops are performing peacekeeping duties for over a year to bring peace and normalcy back in Somalia where law and order had totally collapsed due to civil war.

Iranian Envoy To Visit Islamabad To Discuss Kashmir

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[Text] Pakistan has greatly succeeded in attracting world public opinion toward atrocities being committed by India in occupied Kashmir. This was stated by Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan while addressing a function in Lahore last night. He categorically stated that Pakistan has not withdrawn its resolution on Kashmir from the UN Human Rights Commission and has agreed only to defer the voting on the resolution, which is still effective and can be taken up at any time.

Appreciating the Islamic Conference Organization's [ICO's] support on the Kashmir issue, the foreign secretary said the ICO has unanimously approved resolutions on Kashmir five times in the past. These resolutions have greatly helped to generate sympathies for the Kashmiri people, who are waging a struggle to achieve their right of self-determination.

Shaharyar Khan said India cannot renege on its promise to allow a visit of a mission comprised of envoys from Islamic countries to assess the repression committed in occupied Kashmir. He disclosed that Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's special emissary is arriving in Islamabad today to discuss this particular issue. He said India's acceptance of this proposal is on record.